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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC.
April 18, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY K. WEBER, Sr., to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

CUBA'S SCAM TRANSITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today, many around the world might herald what they call a transition of power in my native homeland of Cuba, but that couldn't be further from the truth.

This sham transition is more smoke and mirrors—another ploy out of the Castro playbook. The reality is that Raul Castro will continue to maintain his grip on power. The reality is that the Cuban people will be no closer to freedom today than they were yesterday—no closer to democracy today than they were yesterday.

The reality is that the murderous regime in Cuba will continue to oppress and will continue to abuse the people of Cuba.

We are not fooled, Mr. Speaker, and U.S. law dictates that we do not recognize this so-called transition government or any successor government until certain conditions are met, conditions such as: all political prisoners be released; until free, fair, and transparent elections monitored by international observers are held; and until the Cuban people's human rights are respected.

Until then, and only then, Mr. Speaker, we must continue to oppose this farce orchestrated by Castro and, instead, we must stand with the people of Cuba in their fight for freedom, democracy, and human rights.

CHANGES TO SNAP IN THE NEW FARM BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a major responsibility of the farm bill is intended to address the growing issue of food insecurity in America. As a matter of fact, roughly one out of every six individuals in Dallas County will go to sleep each night not knowing where their next meal will come from.

Hunger is not just a major issue within any one district, but it is one that affects Americans in virtually every district in every part of the country. It is an important issue. It is one on which Congress needs to focus.

Sadly, the farm bill introduced last week will hurt far more Americans than it will help. The proposed changes for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program within the farm bill are downright draconian. SNAP was intended to help the poor so they can find meaningful work on a full stomach. The new proposed work requirements would starve individuals who are unable to find sustainable employment due to economic, medical, or family-related issues.

Organizations such as Feeding America and the Food Research & Action Center have come out opposing these changes because they would lead to an increase in hungry Americans and is counterproductive to solving America's hunger problem. It is much harder to climb out of poverty and onto a path of independence when you must devote much of your energy in wondering where your next meal may come from.

Instead of throwing people off SNAP, Congress should be focused on giving greater access to nutritional meals so that these individuals are able to go on living their lives and trying to find employment that will get them out of poverty and into the middle class.

SNAP was intended to assist the working poor to ensure they are able to put food on the table for their children. These changes would throw many children off the program and subsequently deny access for them to get food from school breakfast and lunch programs. The cuts in SNAP benefits for these students would force them to face the challenges of hunger in addition to the rigors of school.

Countless studies show that students retain more information when their focus is on school in front of them and not on the fear that they will go to bed hungry.

Making certain that the next generation of Americans have every opportunity to grow up with a healthy diet and learn on a full stomach is not just an investment in the fight against hunger; it is also an investment in this country's future.

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Mr. Speaker, I speak not just for African Americans. The majority of the ones who are utilizing this program are non-African American, and the majority are Anglo Americans. So Congress should be working together to strengthen the program so that it fulfills its original goal: ensuring that all Americans, regardless of ethnic origin or status, have the dignity of a day's work and a day's worth of food.

Mr. Speaker, many districts' voices have been muted through the intentional gerrymandering so that they don't have to address the poorest people.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to address all of the American people.

HAPPY SESQUICENTENNIAL TO RENO, NEVADA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with birthday wishes for the premier municipality in the Nation—not the Big Apple, not the Windy City, not the City by the Bay, or the Big Easy.

I am talking about the Biggest Little City in the World, Reno, Nevada. Reno turns 150, celebrating its sesquicentennial.

Congratulations to you Mayor Hillary Schieve and the city council.

Happy birthday, Reno, Nevada.

CONGRATULATING MONSIGNOR GEORGE FARLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor of the House this morning to pay tribute to a close friend of mine, Monsignor George Farland, who is celebrating the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a Catholic priest.

On May 4, 1968, Monsignor Farland received his ministerial orders at Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel in my hometown of Springfield, Massachusetts. I know because I was the CYO basketball coach at Sacred Heart upon his arrival.

For the next half century, he has been a source of inspiration and comfort to his faithful parishioners at Sacred Heart Church in Springfield. Every Sunday, he provides a strong spiritual message, frequently laced with a special grace and a sense of irony and good humor, but always a powerful message. We have watched and witnessed as he has rebuilt and sustained a vibrant parish in the life of its members.

Sacred Heart Church was built by immigrants, and to this day, it welcomes immigrants, as he frequently says in the opening phrases of his powerful homilies: ''No matter what your status or station in life, you are welcome in this church.''

He has found time to serve as a police chaplain for the Springfield Police Department and also a hospital chaplain in the Sisters of Providence Health System in Mercy Medical Center. He has surely reinvigorated the life of the church, and is a son of Hungry Hill, a graduate of Cathedral High School and Saint Anselm College.

His spiritual leadership in western Massachusetts has become, in fact, legendary. He has a well-deserved reputation for compassion, humility, and kindness. Again, the welcoming message of his inclusivity continues to deeply resonate with those who worship at Sacred Heart Church.

He leads his parishioners up and down that middle aisle, oftentimes in joy and happiness or in grief of the funeral, but he always does it with a special tolerance and grace.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States, I want to congratulate Monsignor George Farland for reaching this important milestone in his life, thank him for his decades of thoughtful ministry, and acknowledge the remarkable contributions he has made to the people of all walks of faith in the Diocese of Springfield in western Massachusetts.

RAW DEAL VERSUS BETTER DEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, in this country, our democratic republic, we have a brilliant system of government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

It is a system that consists of two predominant parties with a contrast of ideas. And nowhere in this country is that contrast more prominent than here in the House of Representatives where we have got a vision of the country on the Democratic side of the aisle that wants to move America forward, while the folks on the other side of the aisle want to turn back the clock.

We want to bring people together. They are tearing us apart. We believe in an economy that works for everybody. They are all about an economy for the wealthy and the well-off. They have a raw deal. We have a better deal.

They want to take away healthcare for more than 20 million Americans, impose a draconian age tax on people between 50 and 64, and take away existing protections for preexisting conditions. We want to strengthen the Affordable Care Act and dramatically lower the cost of prescription drugs for every American. Raw deal versus better deal.

They have a fake infrastructure plan that would do nothing to fix our Nation's crumbling bridges, roads, and tunnels. We have a real infrastructure plan that would invest $1 trillion and create 16 million good-paying jobs. Raw deal versus better deal.

They support a budget that would cut more than $2 trillion from Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. We support a budget that would strengthen Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid for working families, middle class folks, and senior citizens all across this country.

They recklessly jammed a tax scam down the throats of the American people where 83 percent of the benefits go to the wealthiest 1 percent of this country—tax cuts for millionaires, billionaires, corporations, and big donors to subsidize the lifestyles of the rich and shameless. Raw deal.

We support tax cuts for working families and middle class folks that are made permanent and that meaningfully put money back into the pockets of everyday Americans. That is a better deal.

□ 1015

They are all about chaos, crisis, confusion, and special interests.

We are about the people's interests: better jobs, better wages, and a better future for the American people. We believe the American people deserve a better deal.

SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, there is a civil war in Syria and a humanitarian crisis that the United States simply cannot and should not ignore.

Today there are some 2,000 U.S. soldiers and marines on the ground in Syria who have spent the past several years engaged in the fight to defeat ISIS. That fight has been largely successful, yet troops remain in Syria to prevent a resurgence of ISIS. U.S. forces are engaged in hostilities against ISIS, not in the Syrian civil war.

Congress was informed in 2015 that our forces are in Syria pursuant to the AUMF enacted in 2001, in response to the attacks on 9/11.

Although U.S. ground forces aren't engaged in the Syrian civil war, our forces have engaged Syrian forces and its regime. Last year, a U.S. Navy F–18 shot down a Syrian war plane in the collective self-defense of our coalition partners. The use of force in self-defense is unquestionably authorized, however risky that may be in potentially drawing the U.S. into armed conflict with Syria or into the Syrian civil war.

In the fall of 2016, U.S. forces mistakenly and unintentionally killed Syrian troops in an air strike that was intended for ISIS fighters. Last year, the Syrian regime launched an aerial bombing with sarin, causing the deaths of nearly 100 civilians.

In response to Assad carrying out these war crimes, the United States military, at the direction of President Trump, fired 59 cruise missiles against a Syrian air base. It was the air base from which the aircraft were launched to drop nerve gas on innocent women, children, men, and civilians.

But that didn't stop Assad. Just 11 days ago, less than 10 days after President Trump instructed military leaders to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria as soon as possible, Assad again launched a chemical attack on more than 500 people.

In response, and without meaningful discussion with Congress, President Trump, once again, ordered air strikes against Syrian targets associated with the Syrian chemical weapons program.

Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the U.S. presence on the ground and our air engagements in Syria since 2015, this Congress has never openly and formally debated the question of authorization for the use of military force in Syria.

It is time for us to do our job. Assad is a barbaric, genocidal dictator. The use of chemical weapons is heinous, and the use of conventional weapons against civilians, which he is also guilty of doing, is equally heinous.

Syria is a humanitarian disaster. 400,000 Syrians, most of whom are innocent civilians, are dead. These facts are not disputed. For more than 70 years, the United States has been an anchor of international security, and I believe we cannot look away when a dictator brazenly and repeatedly violates international law.

The debate that is long overdue in Congress should not be limited to if, when, and how the United States should respond to the next chemical attack. Congress abdicated that responsibility in 2013 and in 2017, and I fear we are on course to do so again this year.

Deliberations over how and when to retaliate against the next chemical weapons attack must be part of the larger debate that we must have about our country's goals, policies, and strategy in Syria and whether another solitary military strike would be effective.

We should recognize that another military response will be hollow if not accompanied by a more robust, whole-of-government approach. We need to agree on a strategy that will permanently deter Assad from using chemical weapons, send a message to Moscow and Tehran, and push Assad to the negotiation table to achieve a lasting political solution to the civil war and humanitarian crisis.

Will this approach require greater support of the secular opposition in Syria? Will we have to work with our NATO allies to intervene more purposefully to contain Assad? These are the things—the issues—that every Member of Congress must grapple with as we weigh the use of military force. The President cannot act unilaterally.

I believe our ideals and principles, as well as our national security, are at stake in Syria, along with our leadership of an international system where we seek to ensure that weapons of mass destruction are never used.

I believe our democracy is stronger when the President acts with the support of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, let's debate and vote on the authorization to use military force in Syria now.

ENSURING U.S. MARITIME JOBS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express my continued support of American maritime jobs through enforcement of the Jones Act.

The Merchant Marine Act of 1920, more commonly known as the Jones Act, was named for its primary sponsor at the time, Senator Wesley Jones, of my home State, Washington State.

The Jones Act exists for good reason. It sustains and protects a strong domestic maritime and shipbuilding industry. It creates jobs for U.S. mariners, many of whom are veterans. It underpins U.S. maritime defense policy and is essential to preserving national security interests at home and abroad. The Jones Act requires the use of American-owned and -operated vessels to move all waterborne cargo between points in the U.S.

I have long maintained that the Jones Act ensures that domestic industries can remain vibrant contributors in the global shipping industry.

At its core, the Jones Act is a critical labor standard that helps put U.S. seafarers to work and maintains important workplace rights. In Washington State, approximately 60 percent of the State's ferries employees working on vessels are Jones Act compliant.

In 2012, I called on the then-administration to protect American jobs by adhering to the Jones Act in response to rising gas prices and the proposed release of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Last year, I spoke up to support the Jones Act fleet in its heroic response to the natural disaster that hit Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

As a member of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, I am committed to working with my colleagues to uphold the longstanding tenets of the Jones Act to safeguard the important role maritime industries play in our economy.

The Jones Act exists for good reason. We should use it to good effect.

EXTENDING CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY TO THE BUSH FAMILY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once again, I rise to speak from the well of the House of Representatives.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I would call to our attention the fact that there is a time when we should put all politics aside. This is such an occasion, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today to extend my condolences and sympathies to the Bush family. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, because I want the world to know that I have great respect for the family.

Politics aside, Mr. Speaker, Ms. Barbara Bush, the First Lady—not currently, but in my world, once a First Lady, always a First Lady. I rise because this First Lady demonstrated something that this country can be proud of.

She was a person who has left a legacy of respectability as it relates to being a First Lady of the United States of America. She respected herself. She had standards. She had principles. She had boundaries. There were certain things that she wouldn't do and would not allow to be done while she was in the White House. Respectability: she respected others which engendered respect for her.

I rise because she will be missed. I rise because she has left this legacy of respectability.

I also rise because, as a neophyte newly elected to Congress, I received an indication that her husband wanted to speak to me. I went over to speak to him. I had no idea as to why he would ask for an opportunity to visit with me, but I did visit with him. I thought it would be a 5-minute meeting. It went much longer than 5 minutes.

He obviously was in one party and I in another. We did not know each other, but we spoke at length. The thing that I remember as we were bringing our meeting to closure, I remember his calling to my attention that one of my greatest challenges in Congress would be to develop an agenda for myself.

There are many people who will have agendas for you. The great challenge in Congress is to develop your own agenda. So on my agenda, I want my record to show that I stood in the well of the Congress of the United States of America to thank the First Lady, Ms. Barbara Bush, for her service to her family, to her country, and indeed to the world.

GOP'S WAR ON THE POOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly represent all of the welfare queens in the United States of America, all those women who get up every day and struggle as mothers, often caretakers for elderly parents, who are juggling two and three minimum wage jobs, $7.25-an-hour jobs a day, and then being told that they are welfare cheats because they need food stamps, SNAP, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, in order to meet the basic food needs of their children.

I rise, Mr. Speaker, to decry your, Mr. Speaker, agenda and the agenda of the majority party to beat up on these poor, hard-working people because they are poor, people who find themselves in the predicament of having more month than money and need just a little bit of assistance to meet those basic nutritional needs.

We are sick and tired of people exaggerating and claiming that people are

gaming the system to the tune of $65,000, $70,000 a year, and that they don't want to work. People want to work, but they are constantly in competition with foreign workers who earn $3 a day. We are in a postindustrial economy, and often people cannot find work and cannot find enough work to meet their needs.

Often people find work, but those jobs do not provide them, Mr. Speaker, with healthcare. But they are being told that they need to provide a urine specimen and have a drug test to get healthcare simply because they don't have an employer that is able to provide them or willing to provide them with healthcare.

Although the claims, Mr. Speaker, have been refuted time and again with facts and research that poor people have dignity, poor people love their children, but poor people are just not getting a fair shot despite all of this.

Republicans continue to perpetuate this propaganda and these talking points that impose even more obstacles on people who are poor. They continue to promote policies that are humiliating, like the ration or harvest boxes or peeing in a cup and eliminating basic rights of Americans because they are financially poor in the richest country on the planet. We are sick and tired, Mr. Speaker, of being sick and tired.

□ 1030

And why do we think this is happening, Mr. Speaker? We think this is happening, Mr. Speaker, because you yourself, Mr. Speaker, declared that we are going to pay for the $1.5 trillion tax cut that we just gave to the wealthiest Americans, corporations, shareholders, all over this planet, we are going to pay for them by cutting Medicaid. We are going to pay for them, Mr. Speaker, by cutting Medicare. We are going to pay for them by cutting Social Security. We are going to pay for them by cutting food stamps, thus the need to vilify people who are poor.

Mr. Speaker, how about if we really want to help people escape poverty and reduce dependency on the safety net, how about trying to raise the minimum wage so that people who are having trouble putting food on the table will actually earn enough money to be able to afford to pay for basic food needs?

If we really want to help people escape poverty, why don't we recognize that basic healthcare is a human right? And we should be trying to fortify the Affordable Care Act as opposed to 60, 70 attempts to repeal it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Americans to wake up.

PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS—ANGELS ABROAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, America's Peace Corps volunteers are our angels abroad. They represent the very best we have in America, but right now, we are not doing enough to protect them.

One volunteer, Jennifer Mamola, her life was forever changed after an accident while she was serving in Uganda. Early one morning, Jennifer was walking with two friends to a bus stop. Out of nowhere, a drunk driver rammed into them; one volunteer was killed and Jennifer's legs were broken.

When she returned home to America, still bedridden and loaded on pain medication, she faced an uphill battle to get treatment because of bureaucracy. After months of fighting the system, she was finally approved for disability, but her nightmare didn't end there. Her case was regularly reopened, and she struggled to get the surgeries she needed and was not always approved. Still traumatized by her experience in Uganda, she reached out for mental health treatment, only to be ignored.

I have heard too many stories like Jennifer's, volunteers eager to make a difference in the world, return home to America, seem to be abandoned by an organization they gave so much for.

Others tell of their struggle to receive quality medical care and protection while they are overseas. A brave volunteer opened up to me about the daily sexual harassment she experienced while serving in a country overseas. During broad daylight, men would grope and threaten her as she walked home from school.

One afternoon at the market, the cashier threatened to break into her house in the middle of the night, come into her bedroom, and sexually assault her. When she reported this to the Peace Corps, they assured her that the men were ''simply joking.''

The harassment went on for months and months. Finally, she made the decision to return to the United States. She could no longer bear the harassment, and she was threatened and afraid.

Peace Corps recorded her reason for leaving as ''difficulty adapting to the culture.'' Are you kidding me? A culture of sexual assault in a foreign country? This meant she was not awarded the certificate of service or letter from the President of the United States that she earned.

Sexual assault and harassment should never be excused as ''joking.'' It should never be brushed off as a cultural norm. Peace Corps has fostered this belief for too long.

Between 2010 and 2014, there were over 900 reported cases of sexual assault and rape by Peace Corps volunteers overseas. This is unacceptable. Our volunteers deserve protection. They deserve basic protections from bad guys who seek to harm them. They deserve quality medical care, both in country and when they get back to the United States.

Now, the Peace Corps has made some changes, but as a former judge, I can tell you that it is our duty to do everything within our power to protect our angels abroad and do more.

Peace Corps volunteers are the face of our country in places where America's shining beacon of hope and liberty may not always shine so bright. They promote goodwill, a better understanding of the United States. They do so much for people overseas. This helps to secure an enduring partnership for our Nation. They change lives every day in the local communities that they serve. Their service to this country should not turn into a nightmare that interrupts or even ends their lives.

We must remember that these Peace Corps volunteers, many times, operate alone in remote areas of the world, doing the best they can to help other people.

Simple changes would greatly improve the safety and security of our Peace Corps ambassadors abroad. That is why the bill Representative JOE KENNEDY of Massachusetts and I have introduced—the bipartisan Sam Farr Peace Corps Enhancement Act—is so important.

We must not continue to send our volunteers into remote areas of the globe without adequate protections against harm. They must have access to a qualified medical doctor and an effective healthcare system to take care of them when they come back to the United States.

There are some things that we can do and this bill will help. It is time to stand up and take action for our volunteers. They are some of the best that America has, representing America and the Peace Corps, and it is our responsibility to take care of them.

And that is just the way it is, Mr. Speaker.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 36 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Lord God of mercy, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Our Nation is singular and powerful by the very fact that Congress begins its workday with prayer, setting an example for all students and workers and people of this great land. It has done so from the very beginnings of Congress itself.

By seeking Your presence and wisdom in moments of prayer each day, we humbly lay before You our limitations and our hopes. We display our openness to Your creative light to guide us in the decisions that must be made to stay the course of government of Your free people.

Hear the prayers of this people's House and call each Member to moral integrity and charitable bipartisan political effort that the course of government might roll forward toward advancements of the common good of our Nation.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MEDICAL DEBT TAX RELIEF

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, medical debt can be financially crippling, and folks who have been fortunate enough to receive debt forgiveness should not face surprise taxes from the IRS on that debt.

Unfortunately, the current Tax Code is not clear on this issue. Therefore, it is possible for a taxpayer to have their medical debt canceled, but then be required to pay taxes on that forgiven debt as if it were income.

That is plain wrong. To ensure medical debt forgiveness is not a taxable event, last week, I introduced the Medical Debt Tax Relief Act.

I thank Congressman JOHN LARSON for joining me in this effort, and I urge our colleagues to join us both in support of this commonsense legislation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KATHLEEN DALEY

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Kathleen Daley, a lifelong Riverside resident and a dedicated member of our community who passed away last week.

For more than a decade, I had the privilege of serving with Kathleen on the Riverside Community College District Board of Trustees. And though she was a conservative Republican, and I a progressive Democrat, never did our ideologies keep us from finding common ground when it came to serving our students.

She taught me what it means to work with people who have a different way of seeing things. Her deep understanding of budgeting was vital to lifting the college out of severe financial hardship. Through her service to the college, as well as to many local nonprofit organizations, Kathleen's commitment to our community improved the lives of people across the Inland Empire region.

My condolences go to Kathleen Daley's family and friends.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF BARBARA BUSH

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, like so many others, to honor the memory of Barbara Bush.

She has already been noted in the history books for her place as one of the only two women to be the wife of one President and the mother of another. But for millions of Americans, Barbara Bush's legacy is deeply personal.

As First Lady, she drew attention to the issue of family literacy in a way that resonated with the American public. In her own straightforward and down-to-earth way, she worked to remove the shame and stigma of illiteracy for adults. She knew and believed that children are the future, but she recognized that if a child's parents didn't have basic reading and writing skills, the whole family's future is at risk.

As the House continues to focus on workforce development and closing the skills gap, it is fitting to recognize the voice Barbara Bush gave to that basic cornerstone of all education: the power of reading. She embraced lifelong learning, and the best way to honor her legacy is to do the same.

As chair of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, it is a privilege to honor her memory and her contributions to the work we continue to do every day.

ROSWELL PARK COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, 120 years ago, Dr. Roswell Park founded the first cancer center in America in Buffalo, New York. For the last century, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center has been a leader in furthering our understanding of cancer and pioneering new patient treatments.

Roswell Park gave the world the first preclinical chemotherapy program, the prostate-specific antigen test, and it is collaborating today with Cuba on a promising new lung cancer vaccine. Herceptin, for metastatic breast cancer, was clinically trialed and tested at Roswell, and new immunotherapy clinical trials are occurring there today.

In addition to promising new treatments, Roswell is home to the compassionate cancer experts for those afflicted with cancer and for those who love the afflicted.

Today, we are urging the National Institutes of Health to renew Roswell Park's well-deserved designation as one of just 49 national cancer centers in the Nation.

New lifesaving and life-quality treatments are within reach at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

IMMIGRATION REFORM, TEXAS STYLE

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a recent poll of Texas voters shows that they want to reduce and reform legal immigration and save jobs for Americans.

The Pulse Opinion Research survey found that 63 percent of Texans favor less immigration than the current annual level of 1 million. Notably, 56 percent support cutting the number of green cards by at least half. Only 14 percent of the voters questioned want to increase immigration.

The poll also determined that Texas voters, by a 2–1 margin, want to end chain migration and only admit spouses and minor children of immigrants. Also, respondents strongly support workforce verification to prevent illegal immigrants from taking jobs away from citizens.

Congress should listen to Texans' views on immigration policy. With a 2,000-mile common border with Mexico, Texas continues to bear the burden of our current misguided immigration system.

REMEMBERING FIRST LADY BARBARA BUSH

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, last night was a sad day for America. Today, our Nation mourns the passing of a beloved American; a bold advocate for family, for literacy; and a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, First Lady Barbara Bush.

Mrs. Bush has brought dignity, civility, and spirit to everything she did. Her strength—of character, of her principles, of her faith—are a great gift to our Nation.

Barbara Bush was a woman of exceptional grace, with an unmatched spirit—again, that spirit—and talent and skill for bringing people together. She was not only respected, but adored by so many across our Nation.

Barbara Bush leaves a living legacy in the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and the deep spirit of volunteerism she championed on behalf of children and families. All who knew Mrs. Bush saw her immense love and pride in her family. She was a beloved matriarch for her family and a matriarch for America, and she always put family first.

We hope that it is a comfort to President Bush—73 years of marriage, wow—former President George Herbert Walker Bush, that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your children, including President George W. Bush. She was the only woman in America, apart from Abigail Adams, who was the wife and mother of a President.

Our prayers are with her grandchildren, her great-grandchildren, whom she loved, and the entire Bush family.

We want them to know that so many share in their grief, pray for them at this sad time, and are grateful to them for sharing Barbara Bush with the Nation.

TITLE X AND PLANNED PARENTHOOD

(Mr. BANKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of changes to title X family planning funds.

Currently, abortion providers like Planned Parenthood are eligible to receive these title X funds, but abortion is not family planning; it is family ending. It ends the lives of innocent children. It is an affront to the very definition of family.

Title X is Planned Parenthood's second largest funding stream, providing around $80 million a year. America's largest abortion provider, which ends over 321,000 lives each year, should never receive a single dime of taxpayer dollars.

I strongly support efforts to turn off the title X funding stream for Planned Parenthood, and urge the Department of Health and Human Services to issue new regulations for the title X program that will stop funding for programs that include abortion.

Mr. Speaker, there are much better and life-affirming options than allowing Planned Parenthood access to taxpayer dollars.

HAWAII DISASTER

(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, over the last several days, the people of Hawaii have faced extreme and severe weather, heavily impacting the communities of Waimanalo, east Oahu, and most heavily, the island of Kauai.

Far too many people are living and struggling in chaos as a result of record-breaking rain, flooding, and landslides that have completely devastated communities, homes, and businesses. It has led to hundreds of people being evacuated.

Many people are still struggling without water and electricity. They are stranded, separated from their children and family members on different parts of the island, and relying on airlifts from the Hawaii National Guard for basic supplies. Time and again, our Kauai community has come together, proven to be strong and resilient, mobilized to support and take care of each other.

I want to say a big thank you to Mayor Carvalho, the Hawaii National Guard, the Coast Guard, our first responders, organizations like the Red Cross, churches, schools, and members of our community who have stood up and taken action, leaders like: Joel Guy and Ryan Sebring; Doug Phillips, who was running boats; Laird Hamilton, who was running water rescue; Hanalei and the Takeshiros, who were running their Zodiac up and down the Wainiha River; Malama Kawai, Mocu Chandler, Laura Richards, and so many more.

I am looking forward to being on Kauai tomorrow to offer my support to those who are helping provide relief to those most affected as our delegation stands ready to help Kauai recover from this disaster.

RECOGNIZING EARTH DAY AND BOWMAN'S HILL WILDFLOWER PRESERVE

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, April 22, is Earth Day, and I am proud to recognize the significant event and to reiterate my strong support for the environmental stewardship and conservation in our communities.

From my days as a Boy Scout, I learned the true beauty of nature and the value it brings to our community, and I still live by the Scouting mantra: Leave the campsite cleaner than you found it.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, which held its annual symposium last month. This event awards the Land Ethics Award for usage of native plants and an eco-friendly design to create a sustainable habitat for wildlife and for public education.

This year's winner was the Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve Committee in New Britain Borough. I would like to recognize the Wilma Quinlan Nature Preserve Committee for their dedication to land conservation, and congratulate them on receiving this award.

I would also like to thank and recognize Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve's education coordinator, Kelly Joslin, for her role in organizing this important event.

□ 1215

TAX DAY

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was tax day; and this year, millions of working men and women filed their taxes knowing that Republicans want them to bear the costs so corporate special interests and the wealthiest Americans can get a gigantic tax cut.

Even worse, the new Republican tax law will raise the deficit by more than $2 trillion, meaning Medicare and Social Security are now on the chopping block according to Republican leaders.

This is not what we were elected to do. Working Americans deserve a better deal. Working families deserve a real and permanent tax cut, not the scam that they got.

It has been decades since we have asked the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share. No secretary, no janitor, and no mid-level employee should have to pay a higher tax rate than the CEO of their company. It is long past time to fix this broken system and pass the Buffett rule.

Mr. Speaker, we should be promoting policies that give families the tools not just to get by, but to get ahead, instead of further rigging the system to benefit the billionaires, millionaires, and America's biggest corporations.

It is time for real tax reform and to undo the tax scam that is going to hurt so many in our country.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING DR. DABNEY N. MONTGOMERY

(Mr. ESPAILLAT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Dabney N. Montgomery.

Dr. Montgomery's selfless service and his courage have made him an institution in Harlem. In the face of segregationist attitudes and racial animus, Dr. Montgomery joined the U.S. Army Air Corps as a member of the prestigious Tuskegee Airmen fighting in World War II. He walked in lockstep with Dr. Martin Luther King in the march from Selma to Montgomery during the civil

rights movement. Dr. Montgomery influenced communities far and wide, but we are so fortunate that in Harlem he worked to make the community a better place for all of us.

In 2007, Dr. Montgomery's lifetime of service and commitment to civil rights and the principles of equality were honored when he received the Congressional Gold Medal, one of the highest civilian awards in the United States.

Now, in 2018, I am so proud that we will soon unveil the Tuskegee Airman Dabney N. Montgomery Place on the northwest corner of West 136th Street to preserve and commemorate his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to share this with you and this body. I am hopeful that his memory will continue to live with us.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of my colleague, Louise McIntosh Slaughter.

For my entire time of service in the House of Representatives, she was my ranking member of the Rules Committee. I sat just a couple of seats down from somebody who truly was inspirational and a fearless advocate for progressive values and a woman who, despite her advancing years, always remained ahead of the curve and future oriented.

Louise had an internal energy, an internal fire that is rare in this body and, frankly, rare across our country. She long stood for an inclusive vision of America. She embraced LGBTQ families before it was popular. She always stood for women's rights despite opposition on both sides of the aisle.

I already miss and continue to miss somebody who, to me, was a friend and a mentor in this institution. I express my sincere condolences to the family of Louise McIntosh Slaughter.

TAX DAY

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, when Americans pay their taxes, as millions did yesterday, they expect, rightfully, that their tax dollars will be used to benefit the many, not just the few; however, that has not been this Republican Congress' approach.

The tax law Republicans enacted does little to help the middle class working families and gives 83 percent to approximately 10 million people, of the benefits, and to 300 million people 17 percent.

According to the independent, nonpartisan Tax Policy Center, the Republican tax law will give the richest Americans an average tax cut of $33,000, while those who are struggling the most will get maybe $40.

Their tax law is also a breathtaking exercise in its fiscal irresponsibility, handing our children and our grandchildren a $1.8 trillion bill they will have to pay.

Thanks to the Republican tax law, the CBO now projects a $1 trillion debt every year for the next 10 years. Somebody is going to have to pay that bill, and it is our children and our grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, the American taxpayers deserve a system that is fair and promotes fiscal sustainability. The new Republican tax law does the opposite.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5444, TAXPAYER FIRST ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5445, 21ST CENTURY IRS ACT

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 831 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 831

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House any bill specified in section 2 of this resolution. All points of order against consideration of each such bill are waived. The respective amendments in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in each such bill shall be considered as adopted. Each such bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in each such bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on each such bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. The bills referred to in the first section of this resolution are as follows:

(a) The bill (H.R. 5444) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

(b) The bill (H.R. 5445) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve cybersecurity and taxpayer identity protection, and modernize the information technology of the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

SEC. 3. (a) In the engrossment of H.R. 5444, the Clerk shall—

(1) await the disposition of H.R. 2901, H.R. 5437, H.R. 5438, H.R. 5439, H.R. 5440, H.R. 5443, H.R. 5445, and H.R. 5446;

(2) add the respective texts of all the bills specified in paragraph (1), as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 5444;

(3) conform the title of H.R. 5444 to reflect the addition to the engrossment of the text of all the bills specified in paragraph (1) that have passed the House;

(4) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; and

(5) conform cross-references and provisions for short titles within the engrossment.

(b) Upon the addition to the engrossment of H.R. 5444 of the text of the bills specified in subsection (a)(1) that have passed the House, such bills shall be laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARPER). The gentleman from Washington is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 831, providing for consideration of two important pieces of legislation: H.R. 5444, the Taxpayer First Act; and H.R. 5445, the 21st Century IRS Act.

The rule provides for consideration of these measures under a closed rule. Both of these pieces of legislation were introduced with bipartisan cosponsors, and both were passed out of the Ways and Means Committee with unanimous support on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday was not only tax day, but it was also the last time the American people had to file their taxes under an outdated and antiquated system. Thanks to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act signed into law by President Trump, Americans have much to look forward to: a simplified tax system, lower rates, a doubled child tax credit to help everyday families, a doubling of the standard deduction, and the freedom to buy the healthcare plan that is right for their families rather than be forced to buy government-mandated health insurance.

As these reforms continue to be implemented, and Americans across the country have begun to see their paychecks grow and small businesses begin to move forward with less regulatory burden, a bipartisan effort in the U.S. House of Representatives to modernize and reform the Internal Revenue Service has arisen. The goal is to redesign the IRS into a modern, 21st century agency focused on the ''taxpayers first'' service—reining in IRS abuses, protecting American taxpayers from fraud, and fairly and efficiently resolving disputes within the agency.

H.R. 5444, the Taxpayer First Act, demonstrates a bipartisan, comprehensive effort to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service. This legislation makes numerous changes to reorganize the agency in an attempt to focus its efforts on customer service. It creates an independent appeals process to improve dispute resolutions and requires the IRS to submit to Congress a comprehensive plan to improve its customer service strategy. It requires the

agency to maintain the IRS Free File Program, equipping low- and middle-income Americans with free individual tax preparation and electronic filing services.

This legislation also requires the IRS to improve efficiency, enhance cybersecurity, and better meet the needs of taxpayers. By ensuring the agency sends notice to the actual taxpayer before contacting friends, neighbors, or clients when conducting an audit, we can ensure Americans receive fair notice and treatment.

Mr. Speaker, the mission statement of the IRS is to provide America's taxpayers top quality service by helping them understand and meet their tax responsibilities and enforce the law with integrity and fairness to all. Unfortunately, in far too many cases, the IRS fails to provide the quality customer service they claim to strive for.

The nonpartisan Government Accountability Office reported in 2015 that the IRS had no strategy in place to define what quality and customer service should look like, nor did the agency have any plans to develop one. This is unacceptable, so I am pleased that the Taxpayer First Act requires the IRS to work to fulfill their mission statement.

The 21st Century IRS Act similarly seeks to modernize the IRS by specifically focusing on improving cybersecurity and taxpayer identity protection as well as reforming the information technology systems within the agency. The IRS relies heavily on an aging, antiquated IT infrastructure to administer the tax system. This infrastructure, some of which dates back to the 1960s, is unreliable and is not keeping up.

As we just saw yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the web page for paying tax bills using personal bank accounts crashed, leading to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin having to provide Americans with an extra day to file their returns. We must bring the IRS's infrastructure into the 21st century in order to prevent negative impacts on taxpayers seeking to comply with their tax responsibilities as we witnessed yesterday.

□ 1230

Unfortunately, these potential threats can include much more serious threats as well, including potential cyber attacks and fraud schemes that seek to exploit stolen taxpayer information.

The 21st Century IRS Act requires the Secretary of the Treasury to work collaboratively with the public and private sectors to protect taxpayers from identity theft tax refund fraud. This legislation also requires the Secretary to submit a written report to Congress describing how the IRS can utilize new payment platforms to increase the number of tax refunds paid by electronic funds transfers, thereby streamlining the final leg of the filing process for taxpayers.

It provides for further recommendations regarding methods to prevent identity theft and refund fraud and requires that State, local, or Federal agencies conduct on-site reviews every 3 years of all contractors or other agents receiving Federal returns and return information.

These reforms are common sense and will prevent frustrating, prolonged interactions with the IRS that could be much more easily and seamlessly resolved online.

Mr. Speaker, this is a straightforward and bipartisan rule, allowing for consideration of two bills that will require the Internal Revenue Service to put customer service needs of the American taxpayer first, and to reform, modernize, and improve the agency's infrastructure.

The IRS must prioritize cybersecurity and taxpayer identity theft protections. The underlying bills in this rule will do just that, and I encourage my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying legislation to continue our historic efforts to reform our Nation's tax system.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule for H.R. 5444 and H.R. 5445. I support the underlying bills, but the problem is these rules don't allow any amendments.

We suggest an open process. I offered three amendments myself to these bills. My colleague Mr. SHERMAN offered an amendment to improve the bill. Unfortunately, we have been denied a vote, and instead this body is having a debate on, frankly, issues, just like yesterday, there doesn't even need to be that much debate on. I would think these bills, like the one yesterday, could have been put on something called the suspension calendar, which means they are not too controversial.

Usually the reason we do a rule is we allow amendments. That is why we do that, and yet all the amendments that were offered were rejected. So we are kind of drawing out the time it takes to pass these bipartisan bills instead of spending the time on issues that the American public want us to address.

Members on both sides of the aisle, myself included, are clamoring for debate around what is called an AUMF, an authorized use of military force, bill to address the authority of the President with regard to Syria, with regard to ISIS and other operations.

We are now 4 months into 2018. The House still has not considered a bill to protect our Dreamers, our young aspiring Americans.

So inaction, inaction, inaction. And even where we are moving forward with a bipartisan bill, we are shutting out ideas from Republicans and Democrats that could actually make the bill better.

I, as I mentioned, offered a couple of those to this bill, and the majority blocked those amendments on a party-line vote. One of my amendments would have provided clarity to consumers and the IRS around providing a window for immunity on filings for use of cryptocurrency, a bipartisan bill with Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Another amendment would have provided tax relief for kombucha manufacturers, a bipartisan bill with Mr. TIPTON. Another would have eased tax burdens on small businesses in States that have legalized marijuana.

All three have bipartisan support. The Rules Committee could have granted the necessary waivers, as they do on many amendments when they choose to, and allowed them.

Mr. SHERMAN's amendment was actually germane to the underlying bill. There wouldn't have needed to be any additional waivers that were granted. We simply could have advanced it to the floor to debate.

So, again, these bills are largely noncontroversial. What is controversial is why won't the Republican leadership allow Democrats and Republicans to amend and improve these bills? And two, why we are wiling away our time on bills that we could have done Monday on a suspension voice vote instead of really working on a bipartisan Authorization for Use of Military Force or the other prescient issues our country faces?

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, sit on the Rules Committee, and what we witnessed Monday was an amazing thing, coming together in a bipartisan fashion on some very important bills to bring reform to the Internal Revenue Service.

And I might respond to the gentleman's comments.

It was a very open process through the Ways and Means Committee. It was, as far as I recall, at least a 3-year process, working bipartisanly, very cooperatively, in a comprehensive fashion in order to get the work done that was brought together and culminated with the work that we see here today.

So, as far as an open process, I don't know what could have been more open. It was one that we can be proud of, one that we should see more of in this institution, frankly, and I am very proud that we are able to be here today, following a long history of using the closed rule process when we are considering these kinds of bills as it pertains to revenue.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), whose amendment was rejected in a party-line vote by the Rules Committee and not even allowed to be debated for a moment on the floor of the House.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, vote against this rule for three reasons:

First, it is a closed rule. You should always vote against a closed rule.

But second, it is the embodiment of a pernicious tradition of always having closed rules on tax bills. That is outrageous. Why would we not apply that to everything that Congress deals with?

We are told: Well, if we don't have a closed rule, we have to have an open rule; we don't want an open rule on a tax bill.

You could have a structured rule. You could have germane amendments.

What does a closed rule on every tax bill mean? It means that over 400 of us can never offer an amendment about taxation, and it also means that, if an amendment is hotly debated in the Ways and Means Committee and prevails or is defeated by one vote, then the entire House cannot chime in on that issue. The second reason to vote against this rule is to break this ironclad tradition of closed rules on tax bills.

There is a third reason, and that is, my amendment to strike section 202 was not allowed. I am an old CPA. I headed the second largest tax agency in this country. I am very interested in easing the burden on taxpayers. This bill generally does that. But section 202 is designed—doesn't actually do this, but it pushes in the direction of locking in the free file system. That is a contract that the IRS has with TurboTax and H&R Block that is supposed to allow everyone with an income of under $66,000 to file for free. But with TurboTax, you have to have an income under $33,000; with H&R Block, you have to be under 50.

I, personally, resent that.

The Free File Program isn't free even if you don't have to pay for the software because you have got to gather your 1099, your INT, your 1099–DIV, and your W–2, and you have to correctly interpret that and enter it into the system.

There is a better system. It is called the pre-prepared tax system. It is being used in Denmark, Sweden, Spain, Belgium, Japan, Chile, and the United Kingdom, not to mention Norway and Finland. The IRS would send you the return. It is already filled out. They already have all the information from your 1099s and your W–2s. You could just hit ''yes'' or you could make changes there on the screen, or you could throw away the IRS' version, go get TurboTax, go to H&R Block, and fill out your own return the way you do it now.

This provision, section 202, pushes the IRS against going to the pre-prepared return system, a better system, a system that was explored in 1998 by a Republican Congress, and the IRS was told to develop that system by 2008. The IRS never did.

So there should be an amendment to strike section 202 and push the IRS toward a pre-prepared return system where you could literally be done with your tax return in 1 minute and not have to keep track of all these pieces of paper and try to interpret them.

There is a solution because this bill will pass. This bill should pass. All the other provisions are pretty good.

You can cosponsor the Tax Filing Simplification Act. By doing that, you would override section 202, tell the IRS that they have to go to a pre-prepared return system.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from California an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. SHERMAN. We would catch up with Spain and Norway and Denmark and Japan and really have a tax system where you don't have to keep track of all the little pieces of paper that the IRS already has, and you wouldn't have to interpret them and figure out where to put them in the complicated software when the IRS already knows how to do that.

I realize that TurboTax and H&R Block might lose some money, but this is a chance for taxpayers around the country to have an easy system.

If you can't vote against the rule—and I wouldn't vote against the bill—cosponsor the Tax Filing Simplification Act.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Ways and Means Committee put out a discussion draft on March 26 entitled, ''The Taxpayer First Act.'' The committee provided 2 weeks to collect input from Members, stakeholder groups, and the public. I would say to my good friends across the aisle that there were a number of substantive comments received, and my understanding is the committee considered them prior to introducing this bill that we have today.

So I would say let's honor that work. Let's move forward with this important piece of legislation, and I urge support of the rule.

Mr. SHERMAN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. NEWHOUSE. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will point out, like every committee, you can always send a letter to any committee I serve on or the Ways and Means Committee. But to take away from Members their right to come to the floor and offer an amendment and get a vote is to relegate us to the same position as all 320 million Americans, all of whom can send a letter to the Ways and Means Committee.

I will also point out that the act I talked about, the Tax Filing Simplification Act, was referred to the Ways and Means Committee, has a number of cosponsors, and has never received a hearing or half a hearing or any discussion.

So to say that the Ways and Means Committee will accept our letters and, therefore, we should have closed rules on tax bills, apply that to every other issue we have—every committee in this House will accept a letter from any other Member, let alone any constituent—means we really want closed rules on everything.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Reclaiming my time, the bipartisan effort in this bill is reflected in a very, very good way, and I urge respecting that process, respecting the comprehensive, collaborative work that was done on this bill, and I urge support of the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on tax day, the White House made an announcement about President Trump's taxes, but it wasn't the announcement that Americans were waiting for.

Instead of releasing his returns, President Trump was actually just requesting an extension to file his 2017 income tax return, which still would not be made public if or when he files it. It is a good reminder that President Trump has broken with decades of tradition when, as a Presidential candidate, he did not disclose his tax returns.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to bring up Representative ESHOO's bill, H.R. 305, the Presidential Tax Transparency Act, which would require Presidential nominees to disclose their last 3 years of tax returns.

To discuss our proposal, I yield 4½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was tax day. Today is tax day. I call upon House Republicans to allow review of the President's tax returns. Now it is tax day again, so I want to reiterate and give my colleagues a vote for transparency.

It was reported yesterday that the President filed for an extension on his returns, but while every President going back to Richard Nixon released his tax returns to the American people in the name of transparency and accountability, this President continues to keep his own finances shrouded in secrecy.

He was told to disinvest at the very beginning of his administration by the Office of Government Ethics, Mr. Shaub. The President has not.

□ 1245

Since February of 2017, I have been calling on the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, of which I am a member, to request the President's tax returns, which they have the power to do under section 6103 of the Tax Code. I called up resolutions, but 18 times the committee and the House have voted against seeing the President's tax returns—just seeing them.

Today, I renew my call for this Congress to act to review the President's tax returns and out his conflicts and self-enrichment while in office.

Why did President Trump support giving the wealthy and big corporations a giant tax cut in the tax scam just passed in the Congress in December?

Why is he letting lobbyists for Wall Street and Big Oil write their own rules?

Candidate Trump promoted himself as a successful businessman who would run the government like he ran his businesses. Well, let's take a look at the business.

In Azerbaijan, he did business with the likely money launderer for Iran's Revolutionary Guard. This is a fact. In the Republic of Georgia, his partner was being investigated for bank fraud and money laundering. In Indonesia, his development partner was deeply involved in ''dirty politics.'' In Brazil, there were criminal investigations into his deals. The FBI is reportedly looking into his Vancouver hotel where one of the Trumps worked with a Malaysian family that admitted to financial fraud. And in New York, Donald, Jr., and Ivanka were investigated for financial crimes in their dealings with the Trump hotel in SoHo.

When he became the President, he did not divest himself from his business. Since then, there is no question that Mr. Trump has profited from the taxpayers and from their government positions, as have the members of his Cabinet. The examples of self-dealing and quid pro quos are too myriad to recount. Here are just a few.

January 23, 2017, Saudi Arabia held a party at the Trump hotel after renting rooms for lobbyists for 5 months.

I know this is unpleasant to listen to, but we have a right.

And I return you to April of 2014, when the Speaker of this House presently was the head of the Ways and Means Committee and dictated to us how they had a right, as a legislative branch of government, to go into the backgrounds, if not the tax returns, of Lois Lerner, who was being investigated at that time, and nothing happened to her, of course, but we argued the point on 6103. And he said, very specifically: This is our duty to oversee the executive branch of government.

Well, what is good for the goose is good for the gander. It is, period, and that is what he said.

So Saudi Arabia, on January 23, 2017, held a party at the Trump hotel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PASCRELL. February 28, Trump, who owns 12 golf courses, rolled back a rule limiting water pollution by golf courses.

April 4, the State Department ran an online ad for Mar-a-Lago. Isn't that nice?

September 19, reports reveal that the Pentagon spent more than $130,000 a month to rent at the Trump Tower, more than twice as much as the other tenants.

I have got a whole list of these, Mr. Speaker. I won't bore you, but I will tell you this: We are going to enter them into the RECORD. This is not the America I know, and this is not the America you know. We have a right to put sunlight on the disinfection. That is our job. This is a checks-and-balance system, Mr. Speaker, and we need—not to take advantage of it, but we need to follow the rules. There are no personalities here.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President of the United States.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the many groups that are supporting H.R. 5444, the Taxpayer First Act, as well as the group supporting H.R. 5445, the 21st Century IRS Act.

For the Taxpayer First Act, the Americans for Tax Reform, the Coalition for Effective and Efficient Tax Administration, the National Foreign Trade Council, and the App Association support the Taxpayer First Act.

As far as the 21st Century Act, H.R. 5445, Citizens Against Government Waste, the Electronic Transactions Association, the MarketPlace Lending Association, the National Taxpayers Union, the Taxpayers Protection Alliance, FreedomWorks, the Institute for Policy Innovation, 60 Plus Association, the Institute for Liberty, the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, Less Government, and the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council all join us in supporting not only the underlying rule, but the underlying legislation, as I would urge my colleagues to do.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO), our final speaker.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my good friend, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the rule, and I want to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to defeat the previous question so the House can vote on my bipartisan—I want to emphasize that, bipartisan—legislation entitled, the ''Presidential Tax Transparency Act.'' This bill codifies the longstanding bipartisan tradition of Presidents and Presidential nominees disclosing their tax return information to the American people.

Now, as was said previously, yesterday was tax day, and it is an important reminder that, as millions of Americans fulfill their duty to file their income tax returns, the President of the United States of America still refuses to release his tax returns to the American people.

I think holding the highest office in the land demands transparency, yet the President refuses to honor what promotes trust with the American people.

And as I said, both Republican and Democratic Presidential candidates, going back to Richard Nixon, all voluntarily put their tax returns out to the American people. Why? To establish trust that they were transparent and that the American people could see whether there were any potential conflicts of interest and many other things, because tax returns are highly instructive. As I said, that has gone on for decades.

I wrote this legislation because, in 2016—and I wrote it in 2016—there were two candidates, one from each party, who refused to put out their tax returns, and I did not think that that was honoring the American people. Now, by refusing to make his tax returns public, the President implies he is hiding important information from the American people.

So what this legislation does—and, again, I want to reiterate, it is bipartisan—it places into law disclosure by requiring the current President and all Presidential nominees of both parties to release their tax returns because, again, in a democracy, truth and transparency should be the gold standard. Presidents and Presidential candidates should be held to the highest standard of transparency to ensure that the interests of the American people are met.

Now, tax returns contain vital information: whether the candidate has actually paid taxes, what they own, how much they have borrowed, who they have borrowed from, whether they have made charitable donations, and what tax loopholes have they taken advantage of and exactly what they are, if they have. They are also highly instructive as to any conflicts of interest.

The current President has 564 financial positions in companies located in the United States and around the world, according to the Federal Election Commission, making him more susceptible to conflicts of interest than any President in our history. Only a full release of his tax returns will provide the public with clear information as to his potential conflicts of interest and his potential entanglements with foreign governments and foreign businesses.

This legislation, again, is bipartisan because transparency and good governance are not partisan issues.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, according to a recent poll, 67 percent of Americans believe the President should release his tax returns just as all of his predecessors since Richard Nixon have done.

During the campaign, the President even promised he would do so before falsely claiming that he couldn't release his tax returns because of an audit. There is no such thing.

Yesterday's editorial board of the Washington Post wrote: ''The President is setting a precedent—that Presidents can promise one thing, do another, and end up dismissing essential

standards of disclosure. Congress should not accept this erosion of good-government practice.''

So, Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more. And, again, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle: Your constituents will reward you for this because this is about transparency, about our democracy, about transparency being the gold standard.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask is the gentleman prepared to close?

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Yes.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have an opportunity here to defeat the previous question and call up a bill to increase transparency with regard to the President. We also have an opportunity to reject a rule that excludes good ideas, where Members of Congress, in good faith, offered amendments to improve the bill and they were denied.

Of course, the two underlying bills are fine bills. What is broken is the process, a process that doesn't allow a meaningful floor debate on improvements to a bill and a process that doesn't allow any floor time for an Authorization for Use of Military Force or addressing the needs of our Dreamers. Unfortunately, these bills are brought to the floor under a closed rule.

I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question and the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted my colleagues on both sides of the aisle have come together to work on the important issues covered in both of these underlying bills. This rule provides for consideration of H.R. 5444, the Taxpayer First Act, as well as H.R. 5445, the 21st Century IRS Act.

The IRS currently lacks a comprehensive customer service strategy, nor does it have any system in place to measure metrics and benchmarks for success within customer service. Additionally, the IRS has not undergone organizational restructuring in the last 20 years.

H.R. 5444 requires the agency to develop a comprehensive strategy for customer service and to submit such plan to Congress no later than 1 year after the enactment of this legislation. It provides for the equitable treatment of every American taxpayer, including ensuring proper notice when the IRS seeks further information from an individual.

Mr. Speaker, the IRS spends $2.4 billion, annually, on information technology, technology that, in some cases, dates back, I understand, to the 1960s. The agency struggles with undertaking and completing large IT modernization efforts to update its legacy systems, which, therefore, can put American taxpayers in a frustrating or even dangerous position.

With the rise of tax refund fraud, a modern IT system must be enacted to ensure taxpayers can successfully comply with their tax requirements. H.R. 5445 modernizes and improves the ease and efficiency of the taxpayer experience when filing taxes, retrieving information, resolving issues, and making payments.

This legislation includes a number of provisions to strengthen the IRS' ability to proactively combat identity theft, tax refund fraud, and ensures IRS accountability for secure online taxpayer processes.

In light of the historic tax reform legislation initiated by this representative body, the people's House, and signed into law by the President, President Trump, just last year, it is vital the Internal Revenue Service undertake its own important reforms.

□ 1300

No one enjoys receiving an envelope stamped ''Internal Revenue Service.'' Far too often, taxpayers find the IRS to be inaccessible, intimidating, and unaccountable. American taxpayers deserve a robust and efficient agency with important oversight protections and modernized systems to keep their private information protected.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to speak in favor of this bipartisan rule, and I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 831, and both of the underlying bipartisan bills.

The material previously referred to by Mr. POLIS is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 831 OFFERED BY MR. POLIS

At the end of the resolution, add the following new sections:

SEC. 4. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution the Speaker shall, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 305) to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require the disclosure of certain tax returns by Presidents and certain candidates for the office of the President, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided among and controlled by the respective chairs and ranking minority members of the Committees on Ways and Means and Oversight and Government Reform. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Committee of the Whole rises and reports that it has come to no resolution on the bill, then on the next legislative day the House shall, immediately after the third daily order of business under clause 1 of rule XIV, resolve into the Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the bill.

SEC. 5. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 305.

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IT REALLY MEANS

This vote, the vote on whether to order the previous question on a special rule, is not merely a procedural vote. A vote against ordering the previous question is a vote against the Republican majority agenda and a vote to allow the Democratic minority to offer an alternative plan. It is a vote about what the House should be debating.

Mr. Clarence Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives (VI, 308–311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as ''a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge.'' To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject before the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that ''the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition'' in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R–Illinois) said: ''The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition.''

The Republican majority may say ''the vote on the previous question is simply a vote on whether to proceed to an immediate vote on adopting the resolution . . . [and] has no substantive legislative or policy implications whatsoever.'' But that is not what they have always said. Listen to the Republican Leadership Manual on the Legislative Process in the United States House of Representatives, (6th edition, page 135). Here's how the Republicans describe the previous question vote in their own manual: ''Although it is generally not possible to amend the rule because the majority Member controlling the time will not yield for the purpose of offering an amendment, the same result may be achieved by voting down the previous question on the rule. . . . When the motion for the previous question is defeated, control of the time passes to the Member who led the opposition to ordering the previous question. That Member, because he then controls the time, may offer an amendment to the rule, or yield for the purpose of amendment.''

In Deschler's Procedure in the U.S. House of Representatives, the subchapter titled ''Amending Special Rules'' states: ''a refusal to order the previous question on such a rule [a special rule reported from the Committee on Rules] opens the resolution to amendment and further debate.'' (Chapter 21, section 21.2) Section 21.3 continues: ''Upon rejection of the motion for the previous question on a resolution reported from the Committee on Rules, control shifts to the Member leading the opposition to the previous question, who may offer a proper amendment or motion and who controls the time for debate thereon.''

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of adoption of the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 226, nays 189, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 143]

YEAS—226

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Banks (IN)
Barr
Barton
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Brady (TX)
Brat
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Dunn
Emmer
Estes (KS)
Faso
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frelinghuysen
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garrett
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guthrie
Handel
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Knight
Kustoff (TN)
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Lewis (MN)
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Newhouse
Noem
Norman
Nunes
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Rooney, Thomas J.
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce (CA)
Russell
Rutherford
Sanford
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Smucker
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NAYS—189

Adams
Aguilar
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Capuano
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Crist
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
DelBene
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Espaillat
Esty (CT)
Evans
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Hastings
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lujan Grisham, M.
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moulton
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Nolan
Norcross
O'Halleran
O'Rourke
Pallone
Panetta
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Richmond
Rosen
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sinema
Sires
Smith (WA)
Soto
Speier
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Tsongas
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—14

Barletta
Black
Blumenauer
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Comstock
Delaney
DeLauro
Keating
McCaul
Moore
Scalise
Simpson
Smith (NJ)

□ 1325

Mr. SCHRADER, Mses. DELBENE, FUDGE, Messrs. BROWN of Maryland, THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. CRIST changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 239, noes 177, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 144]

AYES—239

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Banks (IN)
Barr
Barton
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blum
Bost
Brady (TX)
Brat
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carbajal
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Coffman
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Costello (PA)
Cramer
Crawford
Crist
Culberson
Curbelo (FL)
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donovan
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Dunn
Emmer
Estes (KS)
Faso
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx
Frelinghuysen
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garrett
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gottheimer
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Griffith
Grothman
Guthrie
Handel
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd
Issa
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Knight
Kustoff (TN)
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Lance
Latta
Lawson (FL)
Lewis (MN)
LoBiondo
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
MacArthur
Marchant
Marino
Marshall
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Messer
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Newhouse
Noem
Norman
Nunes
O'Halleran
Olson
Palazzo
Palmer
Paulsen
Pearce
Perry
Peters
Pittenger
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Rooney, Thomas J.
Ros-Lehtinen
Rosen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce (CA)
Russell
Rutherford
Sanford
Schneider
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shimkus
Shuster
Sinema
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smucker
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NOES—177

Adams	Gabbard	Nadler
Aguilar	Gallego	Napolitano
Amash	Garamendi	Neal
Barragán	Gomez	Norcross
Bass	Gonzalez (TX)	O'Rourke
Beatty	Green, Al	Pallone
Bera	Green, Gene	Panetta
Beyer	Grijalva	Pascrell
Bishop (GA)	Gutiérrez	Payne
Blunt Rochester	Hanabusa	Pelosi
Bonamici	Hastings	Perlmutter
Boyle, Brendan F.	Heck	Peterson
	Higgins (NY)	Pingree
Brady (PA)	Himes	Pocan
Brown (MD)	Hoyer	Polis
Brownley (CA)	Huffman	Price (NC)
Bustos	Jackson Lee	Quigley
Butterfield	Jayapal	Raskin
Capuano	Jeffries	Rice (NY)
Cárdenas	Johnson (GA)	Richmond
Carson (IN)	Johnson, E. B.	Roybal-Allard
Cartwright	Kaptur	Ruiz
Castor (FL)	Kelly (IL)	Ruppersberger
Castro (TX)	Kennedy	Rush
Chu, Judy	Khanna	Ryan (OH)
Cicilline	Kihuen	Sánchez
Clark (MA)	Kildee	Sarbanes
Clarke (NY)	Kilmer	Schakowsky
Clay	Kind	Schiff
Cleaver	Krishnamoorthi	Schrader
Clyburn	Kuster (NH)	Scott (VA)
Cohen	Langevin	Serrano
Connolly	Larsen (WA)	Sewell (AL)
Cooper	Larson (CT)	Shea-Porter
Correa	Lawrence	Sherman
Costa	Lee	Sires
Courtney	Levin	Smith (WA)
Crowley	Lewis (GA)	Soto
Cuellar	Lieu, Ted	Speier
Cummings	Lipinski	Swalwell (CA)
Davis (CA)	Loebsack	Takano
Davis, Danny	Lofgren	Thompson (CA)
DeFazio	Lowenthal	Thompson (MS)
DeGette	Lowey	Titus
DelBene	Lujan Grisham, M.	Tonko
Demings		Torres
DeSaulnier	Luján, Ben Ray	Tsongas
Deutch	Lynch	Vargas
Dingell	Maloney, Carolyn B.	Veasey
Doggett		Vela
Doyle, Michael F.	Maloney, Sean	Velázquez
	Massie	Visclosky
Ellison	Matsui	Walz
Engel	McCollum	Wasserman Schultz
Eshoo	McEachin	
Espaillat	McGovern	Waters, Maxine
Esty (CT)	McNerney	Watson Coleman
Evans	Meeks	Welch
Foster	Meng	Wilson (FL)
Frankel (FL)	Moore	Yarmuth
Fudge	Moulton	

NOT VOTING—13

Barletta	Comstock	Scalise
Black	Delaney	Scott, David
Blumenauer	DeLauro	Simpson
Bridenstine	Keating	
Brooks (AL)	Nolan	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1332

Mr. CUMMINGS changed his vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 143 and "yea" on rollcall No. 144.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 18, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 18, 2018, at 10:55 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1281.

Appointments:

Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

TAXPAYER FIRST ACT

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 831, I call up the bill (H.R. 5444) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 831, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, printed in the bill, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5444

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; ETC.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Taxpayer First Act''.

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; etc.

TITLE I—INDEPENDENT APPEALS PROCESS

Sec. 101. Establishment of Internal Revenue Service Independent Office of Appeals.

TITLE II—IMPROVED SERVICE

Sec. 201. Comprehensive customer service strategy.
Sec. 202. IRS Free File Program.
Sec. 203. Low-income exception for payments otherwise required in connection with a submission of an offer-in-compromise.

TITLE III—SENSIBLE ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 301. Internal Revenue Service seizure requirements with respect to structuring transactions.
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Sec. 304. Modification of procedures for issuance of third-party summons.
Sec. 305. Establishment of income threshold for referral to private debt collection.
Sec. 306. Reform of notice of contact of third parties.
Sec. 307. Modification of authority to issue designated summons.
Sec. 308. Limitation on access of non-Internal Revenue Service employees to returns and return information.

TITLE IV—ORGANIZATIONAL MODERNIZATION

Sec. 401. Modification of title of Commissioner of Internal Revenue and related officials.
Sec. 402. Office of the National Taxpayer Advocate.
Sec. 403. Elimination of IRS Oversight Board.
Sec. 404. Modernization of Internal Revenue Service organizational structure.

TITLE V—TAX COURT

Sec. 501. Disqualification of judge or magistrate judge of the Tax Court.
Sec. 502. Opinions and judgments.
Sec. 503. Title of special trial judge changed to magistrate judge of the Tax Court.
Sec. 504. Repeal of deadwood related to Board of Tax Appeals.

TITLE I—INDEPENDENT APPEALS PROCESS

SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF APPEALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7803 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF APPEALS.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Internal Revenue Service an office to be known as the 'Internal Revenue Service Independent Office of Appeals'.

''(2) CHIEF OF APPEALS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Internal Revenue Service Independent Office of Appeals shall be under the supervision and direction of an official to be known as the 'Chief of Appeals'. The Chief of Appeals shall report directly to the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service and shall be entitled to compensation at the same rate as the highest rate of basic pay established for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 of title 5, United States Code.

''(B) APPOINTMENT.—The Chief of Appeals shall be appointed by the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, relating to appointments in the competitive service or the Senior Executive Service.

''(C) QUALIFICATIONS.—An individual appointed under subparagraph (B) shall have experience and expertise in—

''(i) administration of, and compliance with, Federal tax laws,

''(ii) a broad range of compliance cases, and

''(iii) management of large service organizations.

''(3) PURPOSES AND DUTIES OF OFFICE.—It shall be the function of the Internal Revenue Service Independent Office of Appeals to resolve Federal tax controversies without litigation on a basis which—

''(A) is fair and impartial to both the Government and the taxpayer,

''(B) promotes a consistent application and interpretation of, and voluntary compliance with, the Federal tax laws, and

''(C) enhances public confidence in the integrity and efficiency of the Internal Revenue Service.

''(4) RIGHT OF APPEAL.—The resolution process described in paragraph (3) shall be generally available to all taxpayers.

''(5) LIMITATION ON DESIGNATION OF CASES AS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REFERRAL TO INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF APPEALS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If any taxpayer which is in receipt of notice of deficiency authorized

under section 6212 requests referral to the Internal Revenue Service Independent Office of Appeals and such request is denied, the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service shall provide such taxpayer a written notice which—

''(i) provides a detailed description of the facts involved, the basis for the decision to deny the request, and a detailed explanation of how the basis of such decision applies to such facts, and

''(ii) describes the procedures proscribed under subparagraph (C) for protesting the decision to deny the request.

''(B) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service shall submit a written report to Congress on an annual basis which includes the number of requests described in subparagraph (A) which were denied and the reasons (described by category) that such requests were denied.

''(C) PROCEDURES FOR PROTESTING DENIAL OF REQUEST.—The Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service shall prescribe procedures for protesting to the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service (personally and not through any delegate) a denial of a request described in subparagraph (A).

''(D) NOT APPLICABLE TO FRIVOLOUS POSITIONS.—This paragraph shall not apply to a request for referral to the Internal Revenue Service Independent Office of Appeals which is denied on the basis that the issue involved is a frivolous position (within the meaning of section 6702(c)).

''(6) STAFF.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—All personnel in the Internal Revenue Service Independent Office of Appeals shall report to the Chief of Appeals.

''(B) ACCESS TO STAFF OF OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COUNSEL.—The Chief of Appeals shall have authority to obtain legal assistance and advice from the staff of the Office of the Chief Counsel. The Chief Counsel shall ensure that such assistance and advice is provided by staff of the Office of the Chief Counsel who were not involved in the case with respect to which such assistance and advice is sought and who are not involved in preparing such case for litigation.

''(7) ACCESS TO CASE FILES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any specified taxpayer with respect to which a conference with the Internal Revenue Service Independent Office of Appeals has been scheduled, the Chief of Appeals shall ensure that such taxpayer is provided access to the nonprivileged portions of the case file on record regarding the disputed issues (other than documents provided by the taxpayer to the Internal Revenue Service) not later than 10 days before the date of such conference.

''(B) TAXPAYER ELECTION TO EXPEDITE CONFERENCE.—If the taxpayer so elects, subparagraph (A) shall be applied by substituting 'the date of such conference' for '10 days before the date of such conference'.

''(C) SPECIFIED TAXPAYER.—For purposes of this paragraph—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'specified taxpayer' means—

''(I) in the case of any taxpayer who is a natural person, a taxpayer whose adjusted gross income does not exceed $400,000, and

''(II) in the case of any other taxpayer, a taxpayer whose gross receipts do not exceed $5,000,000.

''(ii) AGGREGATION RULE.—Rules similar to the rules of section 448(c)(2) shall apply for purposes of clause (i)(II).''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The following provisions are each amended by striking ''Internal Revenue Service Office of Appeals'' and inserting ''Internal Revenue Service Independent Office of Appeals'':

(A) Section 6015(c)(4)(B)(ii)(I).

(B) Section 6320(b)(1).

(C) Subsections (b)(1) and (d)(3) of section 6330.

(D) Section 6603(d)(3)(B).

(E) Section 6621(c)(2)(A)(i).

(F) Section 7122(e)(2).

(G) Subsections (a), (b)(1), (b)(2), and (c)(1) of section 7123.

(H) Subsections (c)(7)(B)(i, and (g)(2)(A) of section 7430.

(I) Section 7522(b)(3).

(J) Section 7612(c)(2)(A).

(2) Section 7430(c)(2) is amended by striking ''Internal Revenue Service Office of Appeals'' each place it appears and inserting ''Internal Revenue Service Independent Office of Appeals''.

(3) The heading of section 6330(d)(3) is amended by inserting ''INDEPENDENT'' after ''IRS''.

(c) OTHER REFERENCES.—Any reference in any provision of law, or regulation or other guidance, to the Internal Revenue Service Office of Appeals shall be treated as a reference to the Internal Revenue Service Independent Office of Appeals.

(d) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—Rules similar to the rules of paragraphs (2) through (6) of section 1001(b) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 shall apply for purposes of this section (and the amendments made by this section).

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) ACCESS TO CASE FILES.—Section 7803(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by subsection (a), shall apply to conferences occurring after the date which is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—IMPROVED SERVICE

SEC. 201. COMPREHENSIVE CUSTOMER SERVICE STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date which is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the National Taxpayer Advocate, shall submit to Congress a written comprehensive customer service strategy for the Internal Revenue Service. Such strategy shall include—

(1) a plan to provide assistance to taxpayers that is secure, designed to meet reasonable taxpayer expectations, and adopts appropriate best practices of customer service provided in the private sector, including online services, telephone call back services, and training of employees providing customer services,

(2) a thorough assessment of the services that the Internal Revenue Service can co-locate with other Federal services or offer as self-service options,

(3) proposals to improve Internal Revenue Service customer service in the short term (the current and following fiscal year), medium term (approximately 3 to 5 fiscal years), and long term (approximately 10 fiscal years),

(4) a plan to update guidance and training materials for customer service employees of the Internal Revenue Service, including the Internal Revenue Manual, to reflect such strategy, and

(5) identified metrics and benchmarks for quantitatively measuring the progress of the Internal Revenue Service in implementing such strategy.

(b) UPDATED GUIDANCE AND TRAINING MATERIALS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall make available the updated guidance and training materials described in subsection (a)(4) (including the Internal Revenue Manual). Such updated guidance and training materials (including the Internal Revenue Manual) shall be written in a manner so as to be easily understood by customer service employees of the Internal Revenue Service and shall provide clear instructions.

SEC. 202. IRS FREE FILE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) The Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary's delegate, shall continue to operate the IRS Free File Program as established by the Internal Revenue Service and published in the Federal Register on November 4, 2002 (67 Fed. Reg. 67247), including any subsequent agreements and governing rules established pursuant thereto.

(2) The IRS Free File Program shall continue to provide free commercial-type online individual income tax preparation and electronic filing services to the lowest 70 percent of taxpayers by adjusted gross income. The number of taxpayers eligible to receive such services each year shall be calculated by the Internal Revenue Service annually based on prior year aggregate taxpayer adjusted gross income data.

(3) In addition to the services described in paragraph (2), and in the same manner, the IRS Free File Program shall continue to make available to all taxpayers (without regard to income) a basic, online electronic fillable forms utility.

(4) The IRS Free File Program shall continue to work cooperatively with the private sector to provide the free individual income tax preparation and the electronic filing services described in paragraphs (2) and (3).

(5) The IRS Free File Program shall work cooperatively with State government agencies to enhance and expand the use of the program to provide needed benefits to the taxpayer while reducing the cost of processing returns.

(b) INNOVATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary's delegate, shall work with the private sector through the IRS Free File Program to identify and implement, consistent with applicable law, innovative new program features to improve and simplify the taxpayer's experience with completing and filing individual income tax returns through voluntary compliance.

SEC. 203. LOW-INCOME EXCEPTION FOR PAYMENTS OTHERWISE REQUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH A SUBMISSION OF AN OFFER-IN-COMPROMISE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7122(c) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) EXCEPTION FOR LOW-INCOME TAXPAYERS.—Paragraph (1), and any user fee otherwise required in connection with the submission of an offer-in-compromise, shall not apply to any offer-in-compromise with respect to a taxpayer who is an individual with adjusted gross income, as determined for the most recent taxable year for which such information is available, which does not exceed 250 percent of the applicable poverty level (as determined by the Secretary).''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to offers-in-compromise submitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE III—SENSIBLE ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 301. INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE SEIZURE REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO STRUCTURING TRANSACTIONS.

Section 5317(c)(2) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''Any property'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any property''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE SEIZURE REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO STRUCTURING TRANSACTIONS.—

''(i) PROPERTY DERIVED FROM AN ILLEGAL SOURCE.—Property may only be seized by the Internal Revenue Service pursuant to subparagraph (A) by reason of a claimed violation of section 5324 if the property to be seized was derived from an illegal source or the funds were structured for the purpose of concealing the violation of a criminal law or regulation other than section 5324.

''(ii) NOTICE.—Not later than 30 days after property is seized by the Internal Revenue Service pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Internal Revenue Service shall—

''(I) make a good faith effort to find all persons with an ownership interest in such property; and

''(II) provide each such person with a notice of the seizure and of the person's rights under clause (iv).

''(iii) EXTENSION OF NOTICE UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.—The Internal Revenue Service may apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for one 30-day extension of the notice requirement under clause (ii) if the Internal Revenue Service can establish probable cause of an imminent threat to national security or personal safety necessitating such extension.

''(iv) POST-SEIZURE HEARING.—If a person with a property interest in property seized pursuant to subparagraph (A) by the Internal Revenue Service requests a hearing by a court of competent jurisdiction within 30 days after the date on which notice is provided under subclause (ii), such property shall be returned unless the court holds an adversarial hearing and finds within 30 days of such request (or such longer period as the court may provide, but only on request of an interested party) that there is probable cause to believe that there is a violation of section 5324 involving such property and probable cause to believe that the property to be seized was derived from an illegal source or the funds were structured for the purpose of concealing the violation of a criminal law or regulation other than section 5324.''.

SEC. 302. EXCLUSION OF INTEREST RECEIVED IN ACTION TO RECOVER PROPERTY SEIZED BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE BASED ON STRUCTURING TRANSACTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 is amended by inserting before section 140 the following new section:

''SEC. 139G. INTEREST RECEIVED IN ACTION TO RECOVER PROPERTY SEIZED BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE BASED ON STRUCTURING TRANSACTION.

''Gross income shall not include any interest received from the Federal Government in connection with an action to recover property seized by the Internal Revenue Service pursuant to section 5317(c)(2) of title 31, United States Code, by reason of a claimed violation of section 5324 of such title.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 is amended by inserting before the item relating to section 140 the following new item:

''Sec. 139G. Interest received in action to recover property seized by the Internal Revenue Service based on structuring transaction.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to interest received on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 303. CLARIFICATION OF EQUITABLE RELIEF FROM JOINT LIABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6015 is amended—

(1) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(7) STANDARD AND SCOPE OF REVIEW.—Any review of a determination made under this section shall be reviewed de novo by the Tax Court and shall be based upon—

''(A) the administrative record established at the time of the determination, and

''(B) any additional newly discovered or previously unavailable evidence.'', and

(2) by amending subsection (f) to read as follows:

''(f) EQUITABLE RELIEF.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Under procedures prescribed by the Secretary, if—

''(A) taking into account all the facts and circumstances, it is inequitable to hold the individual liable for any unpaid tax or any deficiency (or any portion of either), and

''(B) relief is not available to such individual under subsection (b) or (c),

the Secretary may relieve such individual of such liability.

''(2) LIMITATION.—A request for equitable relief under this subsection may be made with respect to any portion of any liability that—

''(A) has not been paid, provided that such request is made before the expiration of the applicable period of limitation under section 6502, or

''(B) has been paid, provided that such request is made during the period in which the individual could submit a timely claim for refund or credit of such payment.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to petitions or requests filed or pending on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 304. MODIFICATION OF PROCEDURES FOR ISSUANCE OF THIRD-PARTY SUMMONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7609(f) is amended by adding at the end the following flush sentence:

''The Secretary shall not issue any summons described in the preceding sentence unless the information sought to be obtained is narrowly tailored to information that pertains to the failure (or potential failure) of the person or group or class of persons referred to in paragraph (2) to comply with one or more provisions of the internal revenue law which have been identified for purposes of such paragraph.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to summonses served after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 305. ESTABLISHMENT OF INCOME THRESHOLD FOR REFERRAL TO PRIVATE DEBT COLLECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6306(d)(3) is amended by striking ''or'' at the end of subparagraph (C), by adding ''or'' at the end of subparagraph (D), and by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

''(E) in the case of a tax receivable which is identified by the Secretary (or the Secretary's delegate) during the period beginning on the date which is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2019, a taxpayer who is an individual with adjusted gross income, as determined for the most recent taxable year for which such information is available, which does not exceed 250 percent of the applicable poverty level (as determined by the Secretary),''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to tax receivables identified by the Secretary (or the Secretary's delegate) after the date which is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 306. REFORM OF NOTICE OF CONTACT OF THIRD PARTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7602(c)(1) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) GENERAL NOTICE.—An officer or employee of the Internal Revenue Service may not contact any person other than the taxpayer with respect to the determination or collection of the tax liability of such taxpayer unless such contact occurs during a period (not greater than 1 year) which is specified in a notice which—

''(A) informs the taxpayer that contacts with persons other than the taxpayer are intended to be made during such period, and

''(B) except as otherwise provided by the Secretary, is provided to the taxpayer not later than 45 days before the beginning of such period.

Nothing in the preceding sentence shall prevent the issuance of notices to the same taxpayer with respect to the same tax liability with periods specified therein that, in the aggregate, exceed 1 year. A notice shall not be issued under this paragraph unless there is an intent at the time such notice is issued to contact persons other than the taxpayer during the period specified in such notice. The preceding sentence shall not prevent the issuance of a notice if the requirement of such sentence is met on the basis of the assumption that the information sought to be obtained by such contact will not be obtained by other means before such contact.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to notices provided, and contacts of persons made, after the date which is 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 307. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO ISSUE DESIGNATED SUMMONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Clause (i) of section 6503(j)(2)(A) is amended to read as follows:

''(i) the issuance of such summons is preceded by a review and written approval of such issuance by the Administrator of the relevant operating division of the Internal Revenue Service and the Chief Counsel which—

''(I) states facts clearly establishing that the Secretary has made reasonable requests for the information that is the subject of the summons, and

''(II) is attached to such summons,''.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT THAT REASONABLE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION WERE MADE.—Subsection (j) of section 6503 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) ESTABLISHMENT THAT REASONABLE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION WERE MADE.—In any court proceeding described in paragraph (3), the Secretary shall establish that reasonable requests were made for the information that is the subject of the summons.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to summonses issued after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 308. LIMITATION ON ACCESS OF NON-INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE EMPLOYEES TO RETURNS AND RETURN INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7602 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) LIMITATION ON ACCESS OF PERSONS OTHER THAN INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary shall not, under the authority of section 6103(n), provide any books, papers, records, or other data obtained pursuant to this section to any person authorized under section 6103(n), except when such person requires such information for the sole purpose of providing expert evaluation and assistance to the Internal Revenue Service. No person other than an officer or employee of the Internal Revenue Service or the Office of Chief Counsel may, on behalf of the Secretary, question a witness under oath whose testimony was obtained pursuant to this section.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendment made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) APPLICATION TO CONTRACTS IN EFFECT.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to any contract in effect under section 6103(n) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, pursuant to temporary Treasury Regulation section 301.7602–1T proposed in Internal Revenue Bulletin 2014–28, Treasury Regulation section 301.7602–1(b)(3), or any similar or successor regulation, that is in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE IV—ORGANIZATIONAL MODERNIZATION

SEC. 401. MODIFICATION OF TITLE OF COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE AND RELATED OFFICIALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7803(a)(1)(A) is amended by striking ''Commissioner of Internal Revenue'' and inserting ''Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATED TO SECTION 7803.—

(1) Subsections (a)(1)(B), (a)(1)(C), (b)(3), (c)(1)(B)(i), and (c)(1)(B)(ii) of section 7803 are each amended by striking ''Commissioner of Internal Revenue'' and inserting ''Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service''.

(2) Section 7803(b)(2)(A) is amended by striking ''Commissioner's'' and inserting ''Administrator's''.

(3) Subsections (a)(1)(D), (a)(1)(E), (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), (b)(2)(A), (b)(2)(D), (b)(3),

(c)(2)(B)(iii), (c)(2)(C)(iv), and (c)(3) of section 7803, as amended by the preceding paragraphs of this subsection, are amended by striking ''Commissioner'' each place it appears therein and inserting ''Administrator''.

(4) The heading of section 7803 is amended by striking ''**commissioner of internal revenue**'' and inserting ''**administrator of the internal revenue service**''.

(5) The heading of section 7803(a) is amended by striking ''COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE'' and inserting ''ADMINISTRATOR OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE''.

(6) The heading of section 7803(c)(3) is amended by striking ''COMMISSIONER'' and inserting ''ADMINISTRATOR''.

(7) The table of sections for subchapter A of chapter 80 is amended by striking the item relating to section 7803 and inserting the following new item:

''Sec. 7803. Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service; other officials.''.

(c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—

(1) Section 6307(c) is amended by striking ''Commissioner of Internal Revenue'' and inserting ''Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service''.

(2) Section 6673(a)(2)(B) is amended by striking ''Commissioner of Internal Revenue'' and inserting ''Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service''.

(3) Section 6707(c) is amended by striking ''Commissioner'' and inserting ''Administrator''.

(4) Section 6707A(d) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''Commissioner of Internal Revenue'' and inserting ''Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service'', and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''Commissioner'' each place it appears and inserting ''Administrator''.

(5)(A) Subsections (a) and (g) of section 7345 are each amended by striking ''Commissioner of Internal Revenue'' and inserting ''Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service''.

(B) Section 7345(g) is amended—

(i) by striking ''Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement'' and inserting ''Deputy Administrator for Services and Enforcement'', and

(ii) by striking ''Commissioner of an operating division'' and inserting ''Administrator of an operating division''.

(C) Subsections (c)(1), (d) and (e)(1) of section 7345 are each amended by striking ''Commissioner'' each place it appears therein and inserting ''Administrator''.

(6) Section 7435(e) is amended by striking ''Commissioner'' each place it appears therein and inserting ''Administrator''.

(7) Section 7409(a)(2)(B) is amended by striking ''Commissioner of Internal Revenue'' and inserting ''Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service''.

(8) Section 7608(c) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''the Commissioner of Internal Revenue (or, if designated by the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner or an Assistant Commissioner of Internal Revenue)'' and inserting ''the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service (or, if designated by the Administrator, the Deputy Administrator or an Assistant Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service)'', and

(B) in paragraph (2) by striking ''Commissioner'' and inserting ''Administrator''.

(9) Section 7611(b)(3)(C) is amended by striking ''regional commissioner'' and inserting ''regional administrator''.

(10) Section 7701(a)(13) is amended to read as follows:

''(13) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Administrator', except where the context clearly indicates otherwise, means the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service.''.

(11)(A) Section 7804(a) is amended by striking ''Commissioner of Internal Revenue'' and inserting ''Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service''.

(B) Subsections (a), (b)(1), and (b)(2) of section 7804(a), as amended by subparagraph (A), are each amended by striking ''Commissioner'' each place it appears therein and inserting ''Administrator''.

(12) Section 7811(c)(1) is amended by striking ''the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, or the Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue'' and inserting ''the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service, or the Deputy Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service''.

(d) AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 8D OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978.—

(1) Subsections (g)(2), (k)(1)(C), (l)(1), and (l)(2)(A) of section 8D of the Inspector General Act of 1978 are each amended by striking ''Commissioner of Internal Revenue'' and inserting ''Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service''.

(2) Section 8D(l)(2)(B) of such Act is amended by striking ''Commissioner'' each place it appears therein and inserting ''Administrator''.

(e) OTHER REFERENCES.—Any reference in any provision of law, or regulation or other guidance, to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, or to any Deputy or Assistant Commissioner of Internal Revenue, or to a Commissioner of any division or region of the Internal Revenue Service, shall be treated as a reference to the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service, or to the appropriate Deputy or Assistant Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service, or to the appropriate Administrator of such division or region, respectively.

(f) CONTINUITY.—In the case of any individual appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, as Commissioner of Internal Revenue under section 7803(a)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and serving in such position immediately before the date of the enactment of this Act, the amendments made by this section shall be construed as changing the title of such individual and shall not be construed to—

(1) require the reappoint of such individual under such section, or

(2) alter the remaining term of such person under section 7803(a)(1)(B).

SEC. 402. OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE.

(a) TAXPAYER ADVOCATE DIRECTIVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7803(c) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) TAXPAYER ADVOCATE DIRECTIVES.—In the case of any Taxpayer Advocate Directive issued by the National Taxpayer Advocate pursuant to a delegation of authority from the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service—

''(A) the Administrator or a Deputy Administrator shall modify, rescind, or ensure compliance with such directive not later than 90 days after the issuance of such directive, and

''(B) in the case of any directive which is modified or rescinded by a Deputy Administrator, the National Taxpayer Advocate may (not later than 90 days after such modification or rescission) appeal to the Administrator and the Administrator shall (not later than 90 days after such appeal is made) ensure compliance with such directive as issued by the National Taxpayer Advocate or provide the National Taxpayer Advocate with a detailed description of the reasons for any modification or rescission made or upheld by the Administrator pursuant to such appeal.''.

(2) REPORT TO CERTAIN COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS REGARDING DIRECTIVES.—Section 7803(c)(2)(B)(ii) is amended by redesignating subclauses (VIII) through (XI) as subclauses (IX) through (XII), respectively, and by inserting after subclause (VII) the following new subclause:

''(VIII) identify any Taxpayer Advocate Directive which was not honored by the Internal Revenue Service in a timely manner, as specified under paragraph (5);''.

(b) NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) INCLUSION OF MOST SERIOUS TAXPAYER PROBLEMS.—Section 7803(c)(2)(B)(ii)(III) is amended by striking ''at least 20'' and inserting ''the 10''.

(2) COORDINATION WITH TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION.—Section 7803(c)(2) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph: .

''(E) COORDINATION WITH TREASURY INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR TAX ADMINISTRATION.—Before beginning any research or study, the National Taxpayer Advocate shall coordinate with the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration to ensure that the National Taxpayer Advocate does not duplicate any action that the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration has already undertaken or has a plan to undertake.''.

(3) STATISTICAL SUPPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 6108 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d) STATISTICAL SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE.—The Secretary shall, upon request of the National Taxpayer Advocate, provide the National Taxpayer Advocate with statistical support in connection with the preparation by the National Taxpayer Advocate of the annual report described in section 7803(c)(2)(B)(ii). Such statistical support shall include statistical studies, compilations, and the review of information provided by the National Taxpayer Advocate for statistical validity and sound statistical methodology.''.

(B) DISCLOSURE OF REVIEW.—Section 7803(c)(2)(B)(ii), as amended by subsection (a), is amended by redesignating subclause (XII) as subclause (XIII) and by inserting after subclause (XI) the following new subclause:

''(XII) with respect to any statistical information included in such report, include a statement of whether such statistical information was reviewed or provided by the Secretary under section 6108(d) and, if so, whether the Secretary determined such information to be statistically valid and based on sound statistical methodology.''.

(C) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 7803(c)(2)(B)(iii) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''The preceding sentence shall not apply with respect to statistical information provided to the Secretary for review, or received from the Secretary, under section 6108(d).''.

(c) SALARY OF NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE.—Section 7803(c)(1)(B)(i) is amended by striking '', or, if the Secretary of the Treasury so determines, at a rate fixed under section 9503 of such title''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) SALARY OF NATIONAL TAXPAYER ADVOCATE.—The amendment made by subsection (c) shall apply to compensation paid to individuals appointed as the National Taxpayer Advocate after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 403. ELIMINATION OF IRS OVERSIGHT BOARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter A of chapter 80 is amended by striking section 7802 (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections of such subchapter).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 4946(c) is amended by adding ''or'' at the end of paragraph (5), by striking '', or'' at the end of paragraph (6) and inserting a period, and by striking paragraph (7).

(2) Section 6103(h) is amended by striking paragraph (6).

(3) Section 7803(a) is amended by striking paragraph (4).

(4) Section 7803(c)(1)(B)(ii) is amended by striking ''and the Oversight Board''.

(5) Section 7803(c)(2)(B)(iii) is amended by striking ''the Oversight Board,''.

(6) Section 8D of the Inspector General Act of 1978 is amended—

(A) in subsections (g)(2) and (h), by striking ''the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board and'',

(B) in subsection (l)(1), by striking ''or the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board'', and

(C) in subsection (l)(2), by striking ''and the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board''.

SEC. 404. MODERNIZATION OF INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2020, the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service shall submit to Congress a comprehensive written plan to redesign the organization of the Internal Revenue Service. Such plan shall—

(1) ensure the successful implementation of the priorities specified by Congress in this Act,

(2) prioritize taxpayer services to ensure that all taxpayers easily and readily receive the assistance that they need,

(3) streamline the structure of the agency including minimizing the duplication of services and responsibilities within the agency,

(4) best position the Internal Revenue Service to combat cybersecurity and other threats to the Internal Revenue Service, and

(5) address whether the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service should report directly to the Administrator.

(b) REPEAL OF RESTRICTION ON ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.—Paragraph (3) of section 1001(a) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 shall cease to apply beginning 1 year after the date on which the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service submits to Congress the plan described in subsection (a).

TITLE V—TAX COURT

SEC. 501. DISQUALIFICATION OF JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE JUDGE OF THE TAX COURT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part II of subchapter C of chapter 76 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 7467. DISQUALIFICATION OF JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE JUDGE OF THE TAX COURT.

''Section 455 of title 28, United States Code, shall apply to judges and magistrate judges of the Tax Court and to proceedings of the Tax Court.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for such part is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''Sec. 7467. Disqualification of judge or magistrate judge of the Tax Court.''.

SEC. 502. OPINIONS AND JUDGMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7459 is amended by striking all the precedes subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''SEC. 7459. OPINIONS AND JUDGMENTS.

''(a) REQUIREMENT.—An opinion upon any proceeding instituted before the Tax Court and a judgment thereon shall be made as quickly as practicable. The judgment shall be made by a judge in accordance with the opinion of the Tax Court, and such judgment so made shall, when entered, be the judgment of the Tax Court.

''(b) INCLUSION OF FINDINGS OF FACT IN OPINION.—It shall be the duty of the Tax Court and of each division to include in its opinion or memorandum opinion upon any proceeding, its findings of fact. The Tax Court shall issue in writing all of its findings of fact, opinions, and memorandum opinions. Subject to such conditions as the Tax Court may by rule provide, the requirements of this subsection and of section 7460 are met if findings of fact or opinion are stated orally and recorded in the transcript of the proceedings.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 7459.—

(1) Subsections (c), (d), (e), and (f) of section 7459 are each amended by striking ''decision'' each place it appears and inserting ''judgment''.

(2) The headings of subsections (c), (d), and (e) of section 7459 are each amended by striking ''DECISION'' and inserting ''JUDGMENT''.

(3) The item relating to section 7459 in the table of sections for part II of subchapter C of chapter 76 is amended to read as follows:

''Sec. 7459. Opinions and judgments.''.

(c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The following provisions are each amended by striking ''decision'' and inserting ''judgment'':

(A) Section 1313(a)(1).

(B) Section 6213(a).

(C) Section 6214(d).

(D) Section 6225(a)(2).

(E) Section 6226(g).

(F) Section 6228(a)(6).

(G) Subsections (a)(3)(B) and (c)(1)(A)(ii) of section 6230.

(H) Section 6247(d).

(I) Section 6252(e).

(J) Section 6404(h)(2)(C).

(K) Section 6503(a)(1).

(L) Section 6673(a)(1)(C).

(M) Subsections (c), (f), and (g) of section 6861.

(N) Section 6863(b)(3)(C).

(O) Section 7428(a).

(P) Section 7428(c)(1)(C)(i).

(Q) Section 7430(f)(3).

(R) Section 7436(c)(2).

(S) Section 7461(b)(2).

(T) Subsections (a)(4), (b), and (d) of section 7463.

(U) Subsections (a)(2)(B) and (b)(4) of section 7476.

(V) Section 7477(a).

(W) Section 7478(a)(2).

(X) Subsections (a)(2) and (c) of section 7479.

(2) The following provisions are each amended by striking ''decision'' each place it appears and inserting ''judgment'':

(A) Subsections (a) and (b)(3) of section 6215.

(B) Section 6226(h).

(C) Section 6247(e).

(D) Subsections (d) and (e) of section 6861.

(E) Section 6863(b)(2).

(F) Section 7422.

(G) Subsections (a) and (b) of section 7460.

(H) Subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) of section 7463.

(I) Section 7482.

(J) Section 7483.

(K) Section 7485(b).

(L) Section 7481.

(3) Sections 7422 and 7482 are each amended by striking ''decisions'' each place it appears and inserting ''judgments''.

(4) Section 7430(f)(1) is amended by striking ''decision or'' both places it appears.

(5) Subsections (a) and (b) of section 7460 are each amended by striking ''report'' each place it appears and inserting ''opinion''.

(6) Section 7461(a) is amended—

(A) by striking ''reports'' and inserting ''opinions'', and

(B) by striking ''report'' and inserting ''opinion''.

(7) Section 7462 is amended by striking ''reports'' each place it appears and inserting ''opinions''.

(8) Section 7487(1) is amended by striking ''decisions'' and inserting ''judgments''.

(9) The headings of sections 6214(b), 7463(b), 7481(a), 7481(b), 7481(d), and 7485(b) are each amended by striking ''DECISIONS'' and inserting ''JUDGMENTS''.

(10) The headings of sections 6226(h), 6247(e), 6861(c), 6861(d), 7443A(c), 7481(a)(2), and 7481(a)(3) are each amended by striking ''DECISION'' and inserting ''JUDGMENT''.

(11) The headings of sections 6863(b)(2), 6863(b)(3), 7430(f)(3), and 7482(a)(2)(B) are each amended by striking ''DECISION'' and inserting ''JUDGMENT''.

(12) The heading of section 7436(c)(2) is amended by striking ''DECISIONS'' and inserting ''JUDGMENT''.

(13) The heading of section 7460(a) is amended by striking ''REPORTS'' and inserting ''OPINIONS''.

(14) The heading of section 7462 is amended by striking ''***reports***'' and inserting ''***opinions***''.

(15) The heading of subchapter D of chapter 76 is amended by striking ''***Decisions***'' and inserting ''***Judgments***''.

(16) The heading of section 7481 is amended by striking ''***decision***'' and inserting ''***judgment***''.

(17) The item relating to section 7462 in the table of sections for part II of subchapter C of chapter 76 is amended to read as follows:

''Sec. 7462. Publication of opinions.''.

(18) The item relating to subchapter D in the table of subchapters for chapter 76 is amended to read as follows:

''SUBCHAPTER D.—COURT REVIEW OF TAX COURT JUDGMENTS''.

(19) The item relating to section 7481 in the table of sections for part III of subchapter D of chapter 76 is amended to read as follows:

''Sec. 7481. Date when Tax Court judgment becomes final.''.

(d) CONTINUING EFFECT OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS.—All orders, decisions, reports, rules, permits, agreements, grants, contracts, certificates, licenses, registrations, privileges, and other administrative actions, in connection with the Tax Court, which are in effect at the time this section takes effect, or were final before the effective date of this section and are to become effective on or after the effective date of this section, shall continue in effect according to their terms until modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, or revoked in accordance with law by the Tax Court.

SEC. 503. TITLE OF SPECIAL TRIAL JUDGE CHANGED TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE OF THE TAX COURT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7443A is amended—

(1) by striking ''special trial judges'' in subsections (a) and (e) and inserting ''magistrate judges of the Tax Court'',

(2) by striking ''special trial judges of the court'' in subsection (b) and inserting ''magistrate judges of the Tax Court'', and

(3) by striking ''special trial judge'' in subsections (c) and (d) and inserting ''magistrate judge of the Tax Court''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The heading of section 7443A is amended by striking ''***special trial judges***'' and inserting ''***magistrate judges of the tax court***''.

(2) The heading of section 7443A(b) is amended by striking ''SPECIAL TRIAL JUDGES'' and inserting ''MAGISTRATE JUDGES OF THE TAX COURT''.

(3) The item relating to section 7443A in the table of sections for part I of subchapter C of chapter 76 is amended to read as follows:

''Sec. 7443A. Magistrate judges of the Tax Court.''.

(4) The heading of section 7448 is amended by striking ''***special trial judges***'' and inserting ''***magistrate judges of the tax court***''.

(5) Section 7448 is amended—

(A) by striking ''special trial judge's'' each place it appears in subsections (a)(6), (c)(1), (d), and (m)(1) and inserting ''magistrate judge of the Tax Court's'', and

(B) by striking ''special trial judge'' each place it appears other than in subsection (n) and inserting ''magistrate judge of the Tax Court''.

(6) Section 7448(n) is amended—

(A) by striking ''special trial judge which are allowable'' and inserting ''magistrate judge of the Tax Court which are allowable'', and

(B) by striking ''special trial judge of the Tax Court'' both places it appears and inserting ''magistrate judge of the Tax Court''.

(7) The heading of section 7448(b)(2) is amended by striking ''SPECIAL TRIAL JUDGES'' and inserting ''MAGISTRATE JUDGES OF THE TAX COURT''.

(8) The item relating to section 7448 in the table of sections for part I of subchapter C of chapter 76 is amended to read as follows:

''Sec. 7448. Annuities to surviving spouses and dependent children of judges and magistrate judges of the Tax Court.''.

(9) Section 7456(a) is amended—

(A) by striking ''special trial judge'' each place it appears and inserting ''magistrate judge'', and

(B) by striking ''(or by the clerk'' and inserting ''of the Tax Court (or by the clerk''.

(10) Section 7466(a) is amended by striking ''special trial judge'' and inserting ''magistrate judge''.

(11) Section 7470A is amended by striking ''special trial judges'' both places it appears in subsections (a) and (b) and inserting ''magistrate judges''.

(12) Section 7471(a)(2)(A) is amended by striking ''special trial judges'' and inserting ''magistrate judges''.

(13) Section 7471(c) is amended—

(A) by striking ''SPECIAL TRIAL JUDGES'' in the heading and inserting ''MAGISTRATE JUDGES OF THE TAX COURT'', and

(B) by striking ''special trial judges'' and inserting ''magistrate judges''.

SEC. 504. REPEAL OF DEADWOOD RELATED TO BOARD OF TAX APPEALS.

(a) Section 7459 is amended by striking subsection (f) and redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (f).

(b) Section 7447(a)(3) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) In any determination of length of service as judge or as a judge of the Tax Court of the United States there shall be included all periods (whether or not consecutive) during which an individual served as judge.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on H.R. 5444, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we are taking the biggest and boldest steps in 20 years, to redesign the IRS with a singular focus, taxpayer service.

This bill will redesign the IRS for the first time in two decades. It refocuses the agency to live up to its mission of putting taxpayers first. Finally, it will rein in its enforcement powers to prevent future abuse.

There are two important pieces of legislation being considered before the House today, H.R. 5444, the Taxpayer First Act; and H.R. 5445, the 21st Century IRS Act. These bipartisan bills, the product of 2 years of work by the Committee on Ways and Means, will make the IRS a truly taxpayer-first agency in a number of different ways.

First off, this bill puts an emphasis on customer service. We are requiring the IRS to submit to Congress plans to restructure the agency to improve efficiency, enhance cybersecurity, and better serve taxpayers. This will guarantee that the IRS is living up to its ''quality service'' motto, while holding the agency accountable if it fails to meet these standards.

In addition, our legislation encourages the IRS to adopt commonsense customer service features commonly seen in the private sector, such as a call-back option.

Secondly, we are overhauling the IRS' enforcement tools so families and small businesses can't have property seized without fair notice and due process. Over and over again, we have heard stories from across the country of absolutely tragic abuses of power by the IRS.

For example, we heard from Andrew Clyde, who served three combat tours in Iraq. Then he came home and opened a successful small business in Georgia, only to have the IRS unfairly seize $950,000 from him. Our legislation prevents outrageous enforcement abuses like this to protect American taxpayers from unfair seizures.

Thirdly, the Taxpayer First Act reminds the IRS they are not just an enforcement agency, they are also our tax administrator. That is why this bill changes the title of the IRS chief from Commissioner to, more accurately, Administrator.

Additionally, and this is important, Mr. Speaker, we are shifting the burden of proof back onto the IRS when examining taxpayers. This legislation establishes an Independent Office of Appeals within the agency to ensure that taxpayers receive a fair and impartial review of disputes they may have with the IRS.

It shouldn't take a Freedom of Information Act request to see what evidence the IRS is bringing against you. This legislation will require that the IRS provide you with your own case file prior to any review of your dispute with the agency. It puts taxpayers on a level playing field, which is where they deserve to be.

In the 21st Century IRS Act, we are revamping the IRS' nearly ancient technology and better positioning the agency to proactively combat cyber threats.

Right now, IRS technology is so outdated that some systems date to the 1960s, and fax machines are still used for some official communications. This bill modernizes the IRS and ensures the agency is accountable for the billions of dollars in IT that it spends each year.

Lastly, the 21st Century IRS Act enhances the agency's ability to combat identity theft tax refund fraud by strengthening the IRS' partnership with States and with cybersecurity experts.

□ 1345

This bill requires the IRS to practically partner with States in the private sector that effectively combat identify thieves trying to steal our refund.

I want to thank Oversight Subcommittee Chairman LYNN JENKINS and Oversight Subcommittee Ranking Member JOHN LEWIS for their tireless work on this important bill.

With the new Tax Code, it is time for a redesign of our tax agency. This bipartisan legislation truly refocuses the IRS to make it a taxpayer-first agency.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, before I turn over the floor, I would like to recognize a good friend and trusted policy adviser, and by every measure, one of the very best to ever serve the Ways and Means Committee in the House, Mr. David Stewart.

David began his congressional journey in 2000, when he came to intern for Ways and Means Committee member, Congressman Phil English. Over his career as a staffer, David became a trusted voice on policy for Speaker John Boehner, for Speaker PAUL RYAN, and, 2½ years ago, for me, when he joined the Ways and Means Committee as staff director.

This past year, with David's steady leadership and immutable resolve, we were able to pass the first tax reform in a generation, which has boosted our economy and helped so many American families. David's focus has always been on making lives better for all Americans, and I stand here to today to tell him: Job well done.

David is a selfless public servant. He sacrificed so much time away from his family—his wife, Betsy, and his daughters, Grace and Poppy—and yet he has served his nation so well.

To say David works hard is an understatement. Once, when he was asked how many hours he worked per week, David replied, simply, with, ''A lot.'' This also shows David's wit and his wry sense of humor that has always made busy days brighter.

His dedication to mastering intricate policy is unmatched, and I know, Mr. Speaker, I speak for all members and staff of the Ways and Means Committee when I say: Thank you, David, for your service to the House and the Committee on Ways and Means. You will be greatly missed around here, my friend.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, April 12, 2018.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BRADY: I am writing to you regarding H.R. 5444, the ''Taxpayer First Act''. There are certain provisions in the legislation which fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Financial Services.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive this committee's right to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving consideration of the bill the Committee on Financial Services does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of this committee to any conference committee which is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 5444 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerly,

JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, April 13, 2018.

Hon. JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENSARLING: Thank you for your letter concerning H.R. 5444, the ''Taxpayer First Act'' on which the Financial Services Committee was granted an additional referral.

I am most appreciative of your decision to waive formal consideration of H.R. 5444 so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you waived formal consideration of the bill, the Financial Services Committee is in no way waiving its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in those provisions of the bill that fall within your Rule X jurisdiction. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees on any House-Senate conference involving this legislation.

I will include a copy of our letters in the Congressional Record during consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman.

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), and I ask unanimous consent that she may control that time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman BRADY for all of his great and good work and for all of his help.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5444. I am proud to join the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) in introducing the Taxpayer First Act.

I would like to begin by thanking the chairwoman for her good and great work on this bill. It was a wonderful opportunity and a great pleasure to work with Ms. JENKINS.

I would also like to thank our friend and colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BUCHANAN), for his determination to work together on behalf of the taxpayers.

Finally, I would like to recognize our staff—Karen McAfee, Peg McGlinch, Machalagh Carr, Rachel Kaldahl, Liz Navin, Lindsay Steward, Meinan Gogo, Adam York, and Jamila Thompson—for all of their hard, good, and great work, and we will never forget you.

Mr. Speaker, the process and the product should inspire each and every Member of this body. For over a year, the Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee hosted hearings and roundtables. We listened and asked questions. We asked Democratic and Republican Members to provide feedback. We reached out to taxpayers and advocates. We negotiated. We took our time, and, Mr. Speaker, I believe that we did it right. Together, we developed a bill that improves the independent appeals process and taxpayer services.

Last month, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) and I released a discussion draft of a bill that would strengthen the IRS and improve taxpayers' services. We reviewed the comments and tried to include fixes where there was agreement. The process was transparent and inclusive, and the product is strong and timely.

H.R. 5444 also makes commonsense updates to the structure of the IRS and the Tax Code. In particular, I am very proud of our work to improve IRS enforcement. For example, we were able to address a shocking issue that the National Taxpayer Advocate raised in her 2017 annual report to Congress.

It is hard to believe that the private debt collection program costs three times more than it collects. This flawed program targets and abuses thousands of low-income taxpayers by enrolling them in installment agreements that they simply cannot afford. That is not right. That is not fair. By removing low-income taxpayers from the private debt collection program, H.R. 5444 puts us on the right path.

Unfortunately, the IRS experienced serious system problems yesterday. I am glad that the IRS acted quickly and extended the tax filing deadline. These problems showed us that we need to have an honest talk with ourselves about the work ahead.

We all know that Congress cut the agency's budget by almost $1 billion since 2010. This reduction harmed both taxpayer services and tax administration. I have said time and time again that you cannot get blood from a turnip. I look forward to working with our colleagues to ensure that the agency has the tools and resources it needs.

It is also important that taxpayers, especially those who are of low income, disabled, and senior citizens, receive fair, quality, and timely help and support.

Through it all, Mr. Speaker, our subcommittee did good work, necessary work. From the beginning, we committed to bipartisanship, and we refused to abandon our course. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of our product and process. At every crossroad, we remembered the lessons from the past and chose to put the taxpayers first.

Again, I urge all of our colleagues to support this bill. I hope that we will continue to work together and improve the taxpayers' experience.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today marks a significant step forward for the American taxpayer as we take up the bipartisan Taxpayer First Act.

The goal of this bill is simple: move the Internal Revenue Service toward being a truly customer service-focused agency, placing a renewed focus on treating taxpayers with respect and dignity.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee Ranking Member, JOHN LEWIS, for cosponsoring this legislation with me.

Together, the subcommittee held 13 formal committee events over the past 3 years, looking at many aspects of how the IRS functions and where improvements are clearly needed. It is in all of our interests for taxpayers to know that the IRS is treating them fairly and with respect.

As a CPA, Members might have heard me talk before about my concerns with the interactions between the IRS and taxpayers. Not only have I heard these concerns while practicing in the private sector, but in my congressional office as well.

In handling constituent services requests through my office, I have found many instances of just outright lack of common sense in administering our Tax Code. As we looked at what changes needed to be made, we focused on the relationship between taxpayers and the government. That means a customer service experience akin to what Americans expect from the private sector, with online services, callback options, and improved support on the phone. To make sure taxpayers receive a fair and impartial review of disputes, we established the Independent Office of Appeals.

This commitment to fair and impartial treatment is the bedrock of the faith Americans place in the IRS.

The vast majority of tax revenues come into the Treasury voluntarily. According to the National Taxpayer Advocate, only 2 percent of all tax revenue collected comes from IRS enforcement actions. A service-oriented, taxpayer-first IRS is key to supporting voluntary compliance.

Our bill also makes permanent the IRS Free File Program, which is not only a win for the taxpayer, but saves the IRS time as well. This commonsense provision is one of the many included in this legislation that has strong bipartisan support and furthers the IRS mission to promote electronic filing.

This bill also includes important taxpayer protections to ensure that the IRS enforcement powers are fair and transparent. For example, this bill includes safeguards to ensure that individuals and small businesses are protected from improper seizures by the IRS.

Lastly, the bill tasks the IRS to develop and submit to Congress a comprehensive plan to restructure the agency, ensuring that it is best positioned to meet the needs of taxpayers today and into the future.

In short, this is the reform I promised my constituents in Kansas and the reforms that all Americans deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to note that we have received a score from the Congressional Budget Office, which I include in the RECORD.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, April 16, 2018.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 5444, the Taxpayer First Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL,
Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 5444—TAXPAYER FIRST ACT

As reported by the House Committee on Ways and Means on April 13, 2018

SUMMARY

H.R. 5444 would make a number of changes to the management and oversight of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The bill would:

Aim to improve customer service and the taxpayer appeals assistance process;

Restrict certain IRS enforcement activities;

Modify the agency's organization; and

Change the operations of the U.S. Tax Court.

The staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimates that enacting the bill would reduce revenues by $102 million over the 2019–2028 period, and CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 5444 would decrease direct spending by $51 million over the same period. On net, H.R. 5444 would increase deficits by $52 million over the period. CBO has not completed an estimate of the bill's costs that are subject to annual appropriation.

Because enacting the bill would affect direct spending and revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures apply.

CBO and JCT estimate that enacting H.R. 5444 would not increase net direct spending or significantly affect on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

JCT has reviewed H.R. 5444 and determined that it contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 5444 is shown in the following table. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 800 (general government).

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—												
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2019–2023	2019–2028
DECREASES IN REVENUES													
Estimated Revenues	0	−32	−57	−12	−1	*	*	*	*	*	*	−101	−102
DECREASES IN DIRECT SPENDING[a]													
Estimated Budget Authority	0	−16	−29	−6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	−51	−51
Estimated Outlays	0	−16	−29	−6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	−51	−51
NET INCREASE IN THE DEFICIT FROM CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING AND REVENUES													
Effect on the Deficit	0	16	29	6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	51	52

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding; * = between −$500,000 and zero.

[a] CBO expects that implementing the bill would increase spending for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that is subject to appropriation. CBO has not completed an estimate of those costs. In 2018, the Congress appropriated $11.1 billion for IRS operations.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 5444 will be enacted by the end of fiscal year 2018.

REVENUES

Under current law, the IRS is authorized to use private debt collection companies to locate and contact taxpayers who owe federal taxes and to arrange for the payment of those amounts. The bill would prohibit the use of private collection companies when the affected taxpayer's adjusted gross income is at or below 250 percent of the poverty level (as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury). The provision would take effect six months after the enactment of the legislation and end in December 2019. JCT estimates that the change would reduce revenues by $102 million over the 2019–2028 period. The provision also would affect direct spending, as discussed under the heading, ''Direct Spending.''

JCT estimates that other provisions in the bill would reduce revenues by an insignificant amount in each year.

DIRECT SPENDING

The bill's prohibition on using private debt collectors in certain cases would reduce direct spending. Under current law, the IRS enters into contracts with private companies to collect delinquent tax liabilities owed to the federal government. Under those contracts, the IRS may allow those businesses to retain up to 25 percent of the amounts they collect. Another 25 percent of the amounts collected is available to the IRS to spend on enforcement activities. CBO estimates that repealing the private debt collection authority and allowing the current contracts to expire would reduce direct spending by $51 million over the 2019–2028 period, or 50 percent of the estimated reduction in revenues stemming from this provision.

Other provisions in the bill would have an insignificant effect on direct spending.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS

The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. The net changes in outlays and revenues that are subject to those pay-as-you-go procedures are shown in the following table.

CBO ESTIMATE OF PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 5444, THE TAXPAYER FIRST ACT, AS ORDERED REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS ON APRIL 11, 2018

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—												
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2018–2023	2018–2029
NET INCREASE IN THE DEFICIT													
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	16	29	6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	51	52
Memorandum:													
Decreases in Outlays	0	−16	−29	−6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	−51	−51
Decreases in Revenues	0	−32	−57	−12	−1	*	*	*	*	*	*	−101	−102

INCREASE IN LONG-TERM DIRECT SPENDING AND DEFICITS

CBO and JCT estimate that enacting H.R. 5444 would not increase net direct spending or significantly affect on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

MANDATES

JCT has reviewed H.R. 5444 and determined that it contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY

Federal Costs: Janet Holtzblatt and Matthew Pickford.

ESTIMATE REVIEWED BY

Kim P. Cawley, Chief, Natural and Physical Resources Cost Estimates Unit.

H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

Theresa Gullo, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

John McClelland, Assistant Director for Tax Analysis.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman

from California (Ms. ESHOO), my good friend.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I thank our beloved JOHN LEWIS for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5444, the Taxpayer First Act. This is bipartisan legislation, and it was unanimously reported out by the Committee on Ways and Means on April 13. It includes a number of important provisions that will modernize, as the Members have been saying, and improve how the IRS administers the Federal Tax Code.

The legislation also makes permanent a popular IRS program that has helped prepare 50 million free returns and e-filings over the last 15 years, saving taxpayers more than $1.5 billion—yes, with a B—in tax compliance costs. That program is the Free File Program. It is an effective partnership between the IRS and the tax preparation community that provides free individual tax preparation and e-filing services to taxpayers with incomes in the bottom 70 percent.

I have been a strong supporter of stand-alone legislation on this issue over several Congresses, and I am really pleased to see that it is included in H.R. 5444.

The Free File Program is also a product of the decentralized system of private taxpayers that we have in place for the American public to file their taxes each year. Consumers have a choice when it comes to whom they choose to prepare their taxes, and choice is a product of competition and the primary ingredient for innovation.

Some have argued that this should be a centralized system, requiring all taxpayers to file their tax returns using one system housed under one roof. But just yesterday, we saw the IRS electronic filing system and e-services crash, and they remained out of service for most of the day. I think taxpayers are better served when they have a decentralized tax ecosystem that can continue to run smoothly in the face of large and unexpected shocks to the system.

We live every day with the increasing threat of data breaches and cyber attacks that threaten the financial stability of more and more Americans, and it is even a greater argument against housing our tax infrastructure under one roof. Imagine the target this could create for the world's most dangerous cybercriminals.

So I am proud to support this bipartisan legislation, because I think it is an excellent example of what both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats, can do when we work together for the good of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote ''aye'' on H.R. 5444.

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Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM).

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman JENKINS and Ranking Member LEWIS for their work on this, and I am pleased that the underlying bill includes the RESPECT Act, which deals with civil asset forfeiture abuses by the Internal Revenue Service, and I strongly urge the other body to take this up.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pick up on one of the themes that the gentlewoman from California just mentioned—the Free File Program—and explain why it is important.

She mentioned a decentralized program which makes all of the sense in the world. She mentioned a level of predictability that makes all the sense in the world. There are opponents to this, however, and I just scratch my head. There are some fringe groups that have said: Oh, no, no, no, that is a bad idea.

Instead, what they are proposing is this: that the Internal Revenue Service fills out your tax returns; that the Internal Revenue Service acts as judge, jury, and executioner. That is a terrible idea. It is called ReadyReturn. It is a disaster. We ought not do that.

Instead, as the gentlewoman from California said, let's do this program. It saves untold sums of money. It is a great benefit to modest taxpayers—those who are earning less than $66,000 in their adjusted gross income—and it also puts the onus on the private sector to actively participate in this process. So in a nutshell, this is a good bill. It is well thought out. It is bipartisan. It has been well crafted and well contemplated, and I urge its passage.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), who is a member of the Health, Oversight, and Tax Policy Subcommittees.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy, and I appreciate his hard work with Chair JENKINS moving this forward.

This is an example of—maybe people don't think it is earthshaking—but being able to come together and deal with things that make a difference with the IRS, which is the largest voluntary tax compliance system in the world. It is very important. And I am pleased, with the reference to 13 hearings and a lot of the back and forth, being able to reach consensus.

But let me say, I wish that those two people who led this effort had been empowered to do a deep dive into some of the dysfunctionality that has been imposed on the IRS. Since 2010, the IRS is dealing with more and more returns which are more and more complex, and my Republican friends have slashed the people who work on it.

We haven't modernized the computer system which those of us who took our first computer programming in the 1970s, I think, would be equipped to work on. It is so outdated.

We have cut the people who were involved with enforcement. Now, I would wish that everybody would voluntarily comply, but everybody doesn't. And as a result, those people who work on enforcement make about $6 for the taxpayer for every dollar we invest in their efforts. And, more importantly, it is a signal that everybody is going to be treated fairly. The people who cut corners, who forget, or who outright cheat are taking away money from the government and putting the burden on others who not only have to pick up the slack, but the people who cheat get an unfair advantage in how they do business.

They are more profitable because they don't pay their full freight. That is stupid, unfair, and it is counterproductive. That is one of the reasons why we have a $450 billion tax gap—the difference between what is owed as a result of people's tax liability and what is paid.

My friends on the other side of the aisle have been involved with punishing the IRS for things real and imagined. But who has really suffered has been the taxpayer, people who can't get their phone calls answered. The IRS doesn't have staff in customer service who can readily answer concerns that taxpayers have.

I am outraged when I hear attorneys and accountants in my community say: Yeah, I had a client who had a legitimate claim and they would have gotten that $4,000 back, but I had to tell them that, because of the dysfunctionality and the underinvestment in the IRS, it would cost them more for me to fix it for them than they would get back.

That is a scandal. We ought to make sure that we have a fully functioning IRS that meets the needs of the taxpayers, that gives them the answers that they need, that makes a very clear signal that everybody needs to fulfill their civic obligations to pay their taxes, and that businesses that cheat or forget are not going to get an unfair advantage over people who work hard to follow the rules. Our deficit would be $450 billion less if we did this properly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLORES). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman because I wanted to make one other point. But I must confess that one of the other reasons that I am really deeply concerned about that now is that it wasn't just that we weren't able to do a deep dive on the causes of dysfunctionality and underinvestment in the IRS.

It is no secret that one of my highest priorities as a Member of Congress and as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, was to be there to help us fulfill our responsibility on that committee dealing with the resources necessary to rebuild and renew America.

It is no secret that America is falling apart while we are falling behind. We

have a growing gap in our Highway Trust Fund that has lost 40 percent of its purchasing power. We are not able to meet our current commitments, let alone the commitments we have in the future.

The Ways and Means Committee allowed the Superfund tax to expire. So now we have a Superfund to clean up toxic waste that has blighted communities across the country, but we no longer have a tax that pays for it. So that burden has been shifted to innocent parties and local government.

I have been working with the last three chairs of our Ways and Means Committee, asking that we have some robust hearings on our responsibility for transportation.

The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee deals with the authorization of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act, but the Ways and Means Committee is responsible for funding it. A couple of weeks ago, there was a hearing in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on our job. They heard from witnesses from labor, from business, the U.S. Chamber, trucking associations—a wide range of people who came in and asked us to raise taxes on them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has again expired.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I really will wrap up. But we have had no hearing like the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee had. They brought all of the witnesses in to talk about our job.

The last three chairs of the Ways and Means Committee from my Republican friends, in 7 years and 3 months, have had exactly one witness on our responsibility to raise the revenue for transportation, not one hearing. We had 380 hearings. We had one 5-minute witness who talked about the need to meet our responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, why do we have to go to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to hear our job? Isn't it about time that my Republican friends allowed us to have a week or two to listen to the wide array of people who want us to fulfill our responsibility to rebuild and renew America and to pay for it? It is past time for that hearing, and I hope we have it. And then we act on what people tell us.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues Ms. JENKINS and Mr. LEWIS, and Chairman BRADY and Ranking Member NEAL, for working on such a commonsense bill that is very bipartisan, of course.

We expect to see that kind of support on the floor as well as that of the committee.

I rise in support of this great bill, H.R. 5444, the Taxpayer First Act. My bill—and I thank the committee—H.R. 5386, the IRS Fair Appeals Saving Taxpayers Act, or IRS FAST Act, was included in the final text of the underlying bill. So this bill, in particular, will help hardworking taxpayers navigate the IRS maze by requiring the IRS to turn over all nonprivileged documents to an individual or business if the taxpayer appeals the IRS' determination decision.

Taxpayers are finally being given an equal playing field. Under current law, the IRS will only turn over a taxpayer's documents through a Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA request, a process which most taxpayers don't know even exists. It takes a long time and is difficult to navigate. In a court of law, everyone has the right to see the evidence that will be used against them, and the IRS is not above the law and should not be able to play games with taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, it shouldn't take a FOIA, a Freedom of Information Act, request to see what evidence the IRS is going to use against you. The IRS FAST Act, which is within H.R. 5444, will require the IRS to provide taxpayers with their case file prior to any review of their dispute with the IRS.

It is common sense and the taxpayers have a victory here. Allowing taxpayers this opportunity is an important step toward bringing accountability and transparency to the IRS. It will improve the experience for taxpayers when navigating the IRS appeals process, saving them time and money.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see my bill included in the final legislation, H.R. 5444, the Taxpayer First Act, and I thank my colleagues for their leadership.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. LEWIS for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5444, the Taxpayer First Act. In particular, I commend Representatives LEWIS and JENKINS for their leadership to prevent private debt collectors from pursuing tax collections from individuals and families earning under 250 percent of the Federal poverty level.

I was deeply disturbed by the report of the Taxpayer Advocate which found that private debt collection enforcement this year targeted SSDI and SSI recipients, subjected impoverished Social Security recipients to levies, and put 45 percent of the studied taxpayers into installment agreements they could not afford.

The private debt collection program appears to have increased the profits of debt collectors at the expense of the disabled, retirees, and impoverished—counter to IRS policy and decency. Creating an independent appeals process, improving the offer in compromise program, and modernizing the IRS are overdue improvements.

So I thank Ranking Member LEWIS and Chairman JENKINS for their leadership, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF).

Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5444, the Taxpayer First Act.

I want to thank Chairman JENKINS and Ranking Member LEWIS for their thoughtful approach to this legislation. Many of these reforms, I think we can all agree, are long overdue, and the American taxpayer deserves better.

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By requiring the IRS to submit to Congress a comprehensive customer service strategy and overhauling the tools of enforcement in order to protect American taxpayers, we will be creating a culture at the agency that will focus on one singular mission, and that is taxpayers first. Frankly, Mr. Speaker, this should be the motto of every Federal agency.

For the first time, this bill will codify an Independent Office of Appeals, so that all taxpayers have access to an administrative review process, and give Congress additional oversight over the agency itself.

Additionally, the Taxpayer First Act simplifies enforcement actions of the IRS so that individuals and small-business owners understand their liabilities and what potential actions could be taken by the IRS.

I also want to thank the committee for including a number of important provisions to this bill to protect taxpayers' identities and further combat cybersecurity threats.

In recent years, we all know that millions of Americans have had their personal and financial information stolen and jeopardized through data breaches of companies like Equifax, Target, and even at the Office of Personnel Management.

I am glad to see Congress continuing to push for proactive measures to protect Americans against tax fraud schemes by working with Federal, State, and private partners. These protections will be especially important as the IRS seeks to modernize its services and its IT systems.

With the recent passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Congress passed legislation to reform our Nation's Tax Code for the first time in over 30 years. Today we have the opportunity to begin reforming the Internal Revenue Service for the first time in 20 years.

Mr. Speaker, this is vitally important legislation, and I urge all Members to vote ''yes.''

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL). The Congresswoman is a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5444,

the Taxpayer First Act. I want to take a point of personal privilege and congratulate the gentlewoman from Kansas and the gentleman from Georgia for working together and showing the Nation that, indeed, Democrats and Republicans can put party aside and actually get something done here in the Nation's Capitol. I especially want to thank the gentleman from Georgia, Congressman LEWIS, who, of course, is a native son of Alabama.

On this tax day, this bill is an opportunity for us to change the relationship many taxpayers have with the Internal Revenue Service. Tax season is a stressful time for millions of Americans, and the compliance burden on the average American and small-business owner is unnecessarily difficult. We are taking important steps today to make the tax filing experience more sensible, fairer, and more efficient.

The base text of this bill includes the text of the bill that I introduced with our Republican colleague, JASON SMITH, the Preserving Taxpayers' Rights Act. Our provisions, as a part of this bill, will introduce process reforms in four ways to help the Internal Revenue Service become more efficient and strengthen its ability to provide service to its customers.

First, our provisions would maintain taxpayers' legal right to have their case heard by the independent and impartial IRS Office of Appeals to ensure the timely, efficient, and cost-effective resolution of any tax disputes between a taxpayer and the IRS.

Secondly, it will ensure that cases the IRS designates for litigation can only be used where the matter involves a tax abuse that affects a large amount of taxpayers.

Thirdly, the provision in our bill that is in this underlying text would ensure that the use of designated summonses that extend the time period for the IRS to assess a tax liability are properly authorized and only used when taxpayers are uncooperative and refuse to provide information requested by the IRS.

Finally, the provision would also prevent the IRS from outsourcing Federal tax audits of private taxpayers to outside law firms.

In summary, our provisions in the bill will improve the independent appeals process, ensuring that the existing right of appeal is maintained and strengthened for taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, overall, H.R. 5444 is a good bill that will make the tax filing experience much more sensible, fairer, and efficient. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD).

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairwoman JENKINS for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5444, the Taxpayer First Act.

As I travel around my district, one of the common concerns that I hear and complaints that I hear is that the IRS is not user friendly, that it is not attentive and isn't efficient, effective, and accountable. We do a lot with this bill here today to change that. This is a good piece of legislation.

I would like to thank Chairwoman JENKINS as well as Ranking Member LEWIS for their hard work and leadership throughout the drafting of this legislation.

Over the past several months, the House Ways and Means Committee and the Oversight Subcommittee, in particular, on which I serve, have focused on finding bipartisan legislative solutions which will make much-needed changes at the IRS. Ensuring an efficient, accountable, and transparent IRS is key to restoring the trust between taxpayers and the agency. It is also necessary for effective implementation of our reformed Tax Code.

We have a responsibility to provide taxpayers with the tools and resources they need to make filing their taxes simpler, which was also a major goal of tax reform.

We must ensure that the IRS puts customer service first so that taxpayers can have confidence that their information is protected and that we upgrade the IRS technology for the 21st century.

Unfortunately, it has been over 20 years since major reforms were made to the IRS, but through the passage of this legislation and others on the floor this week, we have an opportunity to finally bring about these changes.

I am also pleased that the Taxpayer First Act includes H.R. 5342, the Improving Assistance for Taxpayers Act, which I authored and introduced as part of this process.

Currently, the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate, located within the IRS, represents taxpayer interests and helps address both individual and systemic issues at the agency.

When it comes to addressing systemic issues, the Taxpayer Advocate can issue what is called a Taxpayer Advocate Directive. Unfortunately, these orders are not always responded to in a detailed and timely manner or even addressed at all.

My bill aims to improve this process. Specifically, the IRS would be required to respond to Taxpayer Advocate Directives within 90 days. We also establish an appeals process when the advocate deems necessary. If detailed and timely responses are not provided, the Taxpayer Advocate must report such instances to the Congress. These changes will improve accountability and ensure substantive and timely answers for taxpayers dealing with an issue at the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, after two decades and with a new Tax Code to be implemented, the time is now to improve the Internal Revenue Service through these bipartisan and commonsense reforms. We need to continue our work in putting taxpayers first, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5444.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Mr. Speaker, working to improve taxpayer service is no easy task. Every person in this body agrees on the importance of better access to quality taxpayer service, whether it is online, over the phone, or in person.

The IRS is a complex organization that is responsible for a core function of our government. We asked for input from Members of Congress, Federal agencies, and the public. When we reached out, we were responsive and thoughtful. We will continue to work to improve the IRS, to support their staff, and to put taxpayers first.

Again, I want to thank my friend, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), the subcommittee members, and all of the staff for their hard, great, and good work for this bill.

Most important, Members of Congress must remain focused on doing what is right, what is just, and what is in the best interests for every American taxpayer. I encourage all of our colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 5444.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this thoughtful, bipartisan legislation will help refocus the IRS on its taxpayer service mission.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5444 . . . the Taxpayer First Act . . . which would reform the IRS to focus on serving the taxpayers instead of the federal government.

This commonsense approach should be just that. However, under the previous administration, we saw how the IRS was weaponized against certain citizens and groups. This is unacceptable and the American people deserve better.

This bill would require the IRS to focus on customer service by improving the dispute resolution process within the agency; requiring the IRS to maintain the free file program; ensuring the IRS notifies taxpayers when they are conducting an audit; and requiring the IRS to submit plans to improve customer service and efficiency to Congress.

These reforms will make sure taxpayers are respected and treated fairly by the IRS. As President Reagan famously said, ''The most terrifying words in the English language are: 'I'm from the government and I'm here to help.' '' That's a scary prospect but should not keep us from working to make government more accessible and customer friendly.

This bill would refocus the mission of the IRS to actually help taxpayers, instead of only target and punish them.

As a former state treasurer of Kansas, I understand the importance of being a good steward of taxpayer's hard-earned money. This bill works to accomplish that goal and I urge my colleagues to support it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 831, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

21ST CENTURY IRS ACT

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 831, I call up the bill (H.R. 5445) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve cybersecurity and taxpayer identity protection, and modernize the information technology of the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 831, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means, printed in the bill, is considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5445

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; ETC.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''21st Century IRS Act''.

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; etc.

TITLE I—CYBERSECURITY AND IDENTITY PROTECTION

Sec. 101. Public-private partnership to address identity theft refund fraud.
Sec. 102. Recommendations of Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee regarding identity theft refund fraud.
Sec. 103. Information sharing and analysis center.
Sec. 104. Compliance by contractors with confidentiality safeguards.
Sec. 105. Report on electronic payments.

TITLE II—DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Sec. 201. Management of Internal Revenue Service information technology.
Sec. 202. Development of online accounts and portals.
Sec. 203. Internet platform for Form 1099 filings.

TITLE III—MODERNIZATION OF CONSENT-BASED INCOME VERIFICATION SYSTEM

Sec. 301. Disclosure of taxpayer information for third-party income verification.
Sec. 302. Limit redisclosures and uses of consent-based disclosures of tax return information.

TITLE IV—EXPANDED USE OF ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS

Sec. 401. Electronic filing of returns.
Sec. 402. Uniform standards for the use of electronic signatures for disclosure authorizations to, and other authorizations of, practitioners.
Sec. 403. Payment of taxes by debit and credit cards.

TITLE I—CYBERSECURITY AND IDENTITY PROTECTION

SEC. 101. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO ADDRESS IDENTITY THEFT REFUND FRAUD.

The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall work collaboratively with the public and private sectors to protect taxpayers from identity theft refund fraud.

SEC. 102. RECOMMENDATIONS OF ELECTRONIC TAX ADMINISTRATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGARDING IDENTITY THEFT REFUND FRAUD.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall ensure that the advisory group convened by the Secretary pursuant to section 2001(b)(2) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998 (commonly known as the Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee) studies (including by providing organized public forums) and makes recommendations to the Secretary regarding methods to prevent identity theft and refund fraud.

SEC. 103. INFORMATION SHARING AND ANALYSIS CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) may participate in an information sharing and analysis center to centralize, standardize, and enhance data compilation and analysis to facilitate sharing actionable data and information with respect to identity theft tax refund fraud.

(b) DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE METRICS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (or the Secretary's delegate) shall develop metrics for measuring the success of such center in detecting and preventing identity theft tax refund fraud.

(c) DISCLOSURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6103(k) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(13) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION FOR PURPOSES OF CYBERSECURITY AND THE PREVENTION OF IDENTITY THEFT TAX REFUND FRAUD.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Under such procedures and subject to such conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may disclose specified return information to specified ISAC participants to the extent that the Secretary determines such disclosure is in furtherance of effective Federal tax administration relating to the detection or prevention of identity theft tax refund fraud, validation of taxpayer identity, authentication of taxpayer returns, or detection or prevention of cybersecurity threats.

''(B) SPECIFIED ISAC PARTICIPANTS.—For purposes of this paragraph—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'specified ISAC participant' means—

''(I) any person designated by the Secretary as having primary responsibility for a function performed with respect to the information sharing and analysis center described in section 403(a) of the 21st Century IRS Act, and

''(II) any person subject to the requirements of section 7216 and which is a participant in such information sharing and analysis center.

''(ii) INFORMATION SHARING AGREEMENT.—Such term shall not include any person unless such person has entered into a written agreement with the Secretary setting forth the terms and conditions for the disclosure of information to such person under this paragraph, including requirements regarding the protection and safeguarding of such information by such person.

''(C) SPECIFIED RETURN INFORMATION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'specified return information' means—

''(i) in the case of a return which is in connection with a case of potential identity theft refund fraud—

''(I) in the case of such return filed electronically, the internet protocol address, device identification, email domain name, speed of completion, method of authentication, refund method, and such other return information related to the electronic filing characteristics of such return as the Secretary may identify for purposes of this subclause, and

''(II) in the case of such return prepared by a tax return preparer, identifying information with respect to such tax return preparer, including the preparer taxpayer identification number and electronic filer identification number of such preparer,

''(ii) in the case of a return which is in connection with a case of a identity theft refund fraud which has been confirmed by the Secretary (pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary may provide), the information referred to in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i), the name and taxpayer identification number of the taxpayer as it appears on the return, and any bank account and routing information provided for making a refund in connection with such return, and

''(iii) in the case of any cybersecurity threat to the Internal Revenue Service, information similar to the information described in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i) with respect to such threat.

''(D) RESTRICTION ON USE OF DISCLOSED INFORMATION.—

''(i) DESIGNATED THIRD PARTIES.—Any return information received by a person described in subparagraph (B)(i)(I) shall be used only for the purposes of and to the extent necessary in—

''(I) performing the function such person is designated to perform under such subparagraph,

''(II) facilitating disclosures authorized under subparagraph (A) to persons described in subparagraph (B)(i)(II), and

''(III) facilitating disclosures authorized under subsection (d) to participants in such information sharing and analysis center.

''(ii) RETURN PREPARERS.—Any return information received by a person described in subparagraph (B)(i)(II) shall be treated for purposes of section 7216 as information furnished to such person for, or in connection with, the preparation of a return of the tax imposed under chapter 1.

''(E) DATA PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDS.—Return information disclosed under this paragraph shall be subject to such protections and safeguards as the Secretary may require in regulations or other guidance or in the written agreement referred to in subparagraph (B)(ii). Such written agreement shall include a requirement that any unauthorized access to information disclosed under this paragraph, and any breach of any system in which such information is held, be reported to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.''.

(2) APPLICATION OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—

(A) Section 6103(a)(3) is amended by striking ''subsection (k)(10)'' and inserting ''paragraph (10) or (13) of subsection (k)''.

(B) Section 7213(a)(2) is amended by inserting ''or (13)'' after ''(k)(10)''.

SEC. 104. COMPLIANCE BY CONTRACTORS WITH CONFIDENTIALITY SAFEGUARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6103(p) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(9) DISCLOSURE TO CONTRACTORS AND OTHER AGENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no return or return information shall be disclosed to any contractor or other agent of a Federal, State, or local agency unless such agency, to the satisfaction of the Secretary—

''(A) has requirements in effect which require each such contractor or other agent which would have access to returns or return information to provide safeguards (within the meaning of paragraph (4)) to protect the confidentiality of such returns or return information,

''(B) agrees to conduct an on-site review every 3 years (or a mid-point review in the case of contracts or agreements of less than 3 years in duration) of each contractor or other agent to determine compliance with such requirements,

''(C) submits the findings of the most recent review conducted under subparagraph (B) to the Secretary as part of the report required by paragraph (4)(E), and

''(D) certifies to the Secretary for the most recent annual period that such contractor or other agent is in compliance with all such requirements.

The certification required by subparagraph (D) shall include the name and address of each contractor and other agent, a description of the contract or agreement with such contractor or other agent, and the duration of such contract or agreement. The requirements of this paragraph shall not apply to disclosures pursuant to subsection (n) for purposes of Federal tax administration.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 6103(p)(8)(B) is amended by inserting ''or paragraph (9)'' after ''subparagraph (A)''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to disclosures made after December 31, 2022.

SEC. 105. REPORT ON ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary (or the Secretary's delegate), in coordination with the Bureau of Fiscal Service and the Internal Revenue Service, and in consultation with private sector financial institutions, shall submit a written report to Congress describing how the government can utilize new payment platforms to increase the number of tax refunds paid by electronic funds transfer. Such report shall weigh the interests of reducing identity theft tax refund fraud, reducing the Federal Government's costs in delivering tax refunds, the costs and any associated fees charged to taxpayers (including monthly and point-of-service fees) to access their tax refunds, the impact on individuals who do not have access to financial accounts or institutions, and ensuring payments are made to accounts at a financial institution that complies with section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, chapter 2 of title I of Public Law 91-508, and subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code (commonly referred to collectively as the ''Bank Secrecy Act'') and the USA PATRIOT Act. Such report shall include any legislative recommendations necessary to accomplish these goals.

TITLE II—DEVELOPMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SEC. 201. MANAGEMENT OF INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

(a) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER.—Section 7803 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Internal Revenue Service an Internal Revenue Service Chief Information Officer (hereafter referred to in this subsection as the 'IRS CIO') who shall be appointed by the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service.

''(2) CENTRALIZED RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service (and the Secretary) shall act through the IRS CIO with respect to all development, implementation, and maintenance of information technology for the Internal Revenue Service. Any reference in this subsection to the IRS CIO which directs the IRS CIO to take any action, or to assume any responsibility, shall be treated as a reference to the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service acting through the IRS CIO.

''(3) GENERAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The IRS CIO shall—

''(A) be responsible for the development, implementation, and maintenance of information technology for the Internal Revenue Service,

''(B) ensure that the information technology of the Internal Revenue Service is secure and integrated,

''(C) maintain operational control of all information technology for the Internal Revenue Service,

''(D) be the principal advocate for the information technology needs of the Internal Revenue Service, and

''(E) consult with the Chief Procurement Officer of the Internal Revenue Service to ensure that the information technology acquired for the Internal Revenue Service is consistent with—

''(i) the goals and requirements specified in subparagraphs (A) through (D), and

''(ii) the strategic plan developed under paragraph (4).

''(4) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The IRS CIO shall develop and implement a multiyear strategic plan for the information technology needs of the Internal Revenue Service. Such plan shall—

''(i) include performance measurements of such technology and of the implementation of such plan,

''(ii) include a plan for an integrated enterprise architecture of the information technology of the Internal Revenue Service,

''(iii) include and take into account the resources needed to accomplish such plan,

''(iv) take into account planned major acquisitions of information technology by the Internal Revenue Service, including Customer Account Data Engine 2 and the Enterprise Case Management System, and

''(v) align with the needs and strategic plan of the Internal Revenue Service.

''(B) PLAN UPDATES.—The IRS CIO shall, not less frequently than annually, review and update the strategic plan under subparagraph (A) (including the plan for an integrated enterprise architecture described in subparagraph (A)(ii)) to take into account the development of new information technology and the needs of the Internal Revenue Service.

''(5) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—

''(A) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'information technology' has the meaning given such term by section 11101 of title 40, United States Code.

''(B) INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.—Any reference in this subsection to the Internal Revenue Service includes a reference to all components of the Internal Revenue Service, including—

''(i) the Office of the Taxpayer Advocate,

''(ii) the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service, and

''(iii) except as otherwise provided by the Secretary with respect to information technology related to matters described in subsection (b)(3)(B), the Office of the Chief Counsel.''.

(b) INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION AND VALIDATION OF THE CUSTOMER ACCOUNT DATA ENGINE 2 AND ENTERPRISE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service shall enter into a contract with an independent reviewer to verify and validate the implementation plans (including the performance milestones and cost estimates included in such plans) developed for the Customer Account Data Engine 2 and the Enterprise Case Management System.

(2) DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION.—Such contract shall require that such verification and validation be completed not later than the date which is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) APPLICATION TO PHASES OF CADE 2.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not apply to phase 1 of the Customer Account Data Engine 2 and shall apply separately to each other phase.

(B) DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING PLANS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Internal Revenue Service shall complete the development of plans for all phases of the Customer Account Data Engine 2.

(C) DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION OF VERIFICATION AND VALIDATION OF PLANS.—In the case of any phase after phase 2 of the Customer Account Data Engine 2, paragraph (2) shall be applied by substituting ''the date on which the plan for such phase was completed'' for ''the date of the enactment of this Act''.

(c) COORDINATION OF IRS CIO AND CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief Procurement Officer of the Internal Revenue Service shall—

(A) identify all significant IRS information technology acquisitions and provide written notification to the Internal Revenue Service Chief Information Officer (hereafter referred to in this subsection as the ''IRS CIO'') of each such acquisition in advance of such acquisition, and

(B) regularly consult with the IRS CIO regarding acquisitions of information technology for the Internal Revenue Service, including meeting with the IRS CIO regarding such acquisitions upon request.

(2) SIGNIFICANT IRS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ''significant IRS information technology acquisitions'' means—

(A) any acquisition of information technology for the Internal Revenue Service in excess of $1,000,000, and

(B) such other acquisitions of information technology for the Internal Revenue Service (or categories of such acquisitions) as the IRS CIO, in consultation with the Chief Procurement Officer of the Internal Revenue Service, may identify.

(3) SCOPE.—Terms used in this subsection which are also used in section 7803(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as amended by subsection (a)) shall have the same meaning as when used in such section.

SEC. 202. DEVELOPMENT OF ONLINE ACCOUNTS AND PORTALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate (hereafter referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') shall—

(1) develop secure individualized online accounts to provide services to taxpayers and their designated return preparers, including obtaining taxpayer information, making payment of taxes, sharing documentation, and (to the extent feasible) addressing and correcting issues, and

(2) develop a process for the acceptance of tax forms, and supporting documentation, in digital or other electronic format.

(b) ELECTRONIC SERVICES TREATED AS SUPPLEMENTAL; APPLICATION OF SECURITY STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the processes described in subsection (a)—

(1) are a supplement to, and not a replacement for, other services provided by the Internal Revenue Service to taxpayers, including face-to-face taxpayer assistance and services provided by phone, and

(2) comply with applicable security standards and guidelines.

(c) PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING ONLINE ACCOUNTS.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Secretary shall submit to Congress a written report describing the Secretary's plan for developing the secure individualized online accounts described in subsection (a)(1). Such plan shall address the feasibility of taxpayers addressing and correcting issues through such accounts and whether access to such accounts should be restricted and in what manner.

(2) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall make every reasonable effort to make the secure individualized online accounts described in subsection (a)(1) available to taxpayers by December 31, 2023.

SEC. 203. INTERNET PLATFORM FOR FORM 1099 FILINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2023, the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate (hereafter referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') shall make available an Internet website or other electronic media, with a user interface and functionality similar to the Business Services Online Suite of Services provided by the Social Security Administration, that will provide access to resources and guidance provided by the Internal Revenue Service and will allow persons to—

(1) prepare and file Forms 1099,

(2) prepare Forms 1099 for distribution to recipients other than the Internal Revenue Service, and

(3) maintain a record of completed and submitted Forms 1099.

(b) ELECTRONIC SERVICES TREATED AS SUPPLEMENTAL; APPLICATION OF SECURITY STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the services described in subsection (a)—

(1) are a supplement to, and not a replacement for, other services provided by the Internal Revenue Service to taxpayers, and

(2) comply with applicable security standards and guidelines.

TITLE III—MODERNIZATION OF CONSENT-BASED INCOME VERIFICATION SYSTEM

SEC. 301. DISCLOSURE OF TAXPAYER INFORMATION FOR THIRD-PARTY INCOME VERIFICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the close of the 2-year period described in subsection (d)(1), the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate (hereafter referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') shall implement a program to ensure that any qualified disclosure—

(1) is fully automated and accomplished through the Internet, and

(2) is accomplished in as close to real-time as is practicable.

(b) QUALIFIED DISCLOSURE.—For purposes of this section, the term ''qualified disclosure'' means a disclosure under section 6103(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of returns or return information by the Secretary to a person seeking to verify the income or creditworthiness of a taxpayer who is a borrower in the process of a loan application.

(c) APPLICATION OF SECURITY STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the program described in subsection (a) complies with applicable security standards and guidelines.

(d) USER FEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During the 2-year period beginning on the first day of the 6th calendar month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall assess and collect a fee for qualified disclosures (in addition to any other fee assessed and collected for such disclosures) at such rates as the Secretary determines are sufficient to cover the costs related to implementing the program described in subsection (a), including the costs of any necessary infrastructure or technology.

(2) DEPOSIT OF COLLECTIONS.—Amounts received from fees assessed and collected under paragraph (1) shall be deposited in, and credited to, an account solely for the purpose of carrying out the activities described in subsection (a). Such amounts shall be available to carry out such activities without need of further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation.

SEC. 302. LIMIT REDISCLOSURES AND USES OF CONSENT-BASED DISCLOSURES OF TAX RETURN INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6103(c) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''Persons designated by the taxpayer under this subsection to receive return information shall not use the information for any purpose other than the express purpose for which consent was granted and shall not disclose return information to any other person without the express permission of, or request by, the taxpayer.''.

(b) APPLICATION OF PENALTIES.—Section 6103(a)(3) is amended by inserting ''subsection (c),'' after ''return information under''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to disclosures made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE IV—EXPANDED USE OF ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS

SEC. 401. ELECTRONIC FILING OF RETURNS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6011(e)(2)(A) is amended by striking ''250'' and inserting ''the applicable number of''.

(b) APPLICABLE NUMBER.—Section 6011(e) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6) APPLICABLE NUMBER.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(A), the applicable number shall be determined in accordance with the following table:

''(A) in the case of calendar years before 2020, 250,

''(B) in the case of calendar year 2020, 100, and

''(C) in the case of calendar years after 2020, 10.''.

(c) RETURNS FILED BY A TAX RETURN PREPARER.—Section 6011(e)(3) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PREPARERS LOCATED IN AREAS WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS.—The Secretary may waive the requirement of subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines, on the basis of an application by the tax return preparer, that the preparer cannot meet such requirement by reason of being located in a geographic area which does not have access to internet service (other than dial-up or satellite service).''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 402. UNIFORM STANDARDS FOR THE USE OF ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES FOR DISCLOSURE AUTHORIZATIONS TO, AND OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS OF, PRACTITIONERS.

Section 6061(b)(3) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) PUBLISHED GUIDANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall publish guidance as appropriate to define and implement any waiver of the signature requirements or any method adopted under paragraph (1).

''(B) ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES FOR DISCLOSURE AUTHORIZATIONS TO, AND OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS OF, PRACTITIONERS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, the Secretary shall publish guidance to establish uniform standards and procedures for the acceptance of taxpayers' signatures appearing in electronic form with respect to any request for disclosure of a taxpayer's return or return information under section 6103(c) to a practitioner or any power of attorney granted by a taxpayer to a practitioner.

''(C) PRACTITIONER.—For purposes of subparagraph (B), the term 'practitioner' means any individual in good standing who is regulated under section 330 of title 31, United States Code.''.

SEC. 403. PAYMENT OF TAXES BY DEBIT AND CREDIT CARDS.

Section 6311(d)(2) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''The preceding sentence shall not apply to the extent that the Secretary ensures that any such fee or other consideration is fully recouped by the Secretary in the form of fees paid to the Secretary by persons paying taxes imposed under subtitle A with credit, debit, or charge cards pursuant to such contract. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the Secretary shall seek to minimize the amount of any fee or other consideration that the Secretary pays under any such contract.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on H.R. 5445, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Kansas?

There was no objection.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have a significant opportunity to improve tax administration as we take up H.R. 5445, the bipartisan 21st Century IRS Act. This bill seeks to move the Internal Revenue Service into the 21st century by placing a renewed focus on modernization of the IRS and improving taxpayer experience.

Before we talk more about this bill, I would like to take a moment to thank the bill's original cosponsors, Representatives MIKE BISHOP of Michigan and SUZAN DELBENE of Washington, for their strong leadership on this bill. I would also like to thank Representative JOHN LEWIS of Georgia and his staff for being such great partners in this effort.

I think this bill and the others we have put forward as part of the larger IRS package are all the better for having worked through this process in a bipartisan fashion. Together, we have held 13 formal committee events over the past 3 years, hearing testimony and receiving comments from a diverse group of taxpayers, practitioners, and advocacy groups; and together, we have developed what we believe are bipartisan solutions that help improve the agency and, more importantly, the experience of all taxpayers.

□ 1430

Now turning to this bill. Over the past 2 years, the Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee has spent significant time, on a bipartisan basis, focusing on IRS management of information technology and cybersecurity. Through this process, we sought to have deeper,

ongoing conversations with the agency to better understand its current and future needs and challenges.

We have also met with taxpayers and other stakeholders to understand their experiences and concerns, and we have sought to provide strong public accountability for the IRS' IT and cybersecurity failures where we felt it was most needed. These collective interactions helped to shape many of the provisions in the bill before us today.

While the IRS spends approximately $2.4 billion annually on IT, it continues to struggle with undertaking and completing large IT modernization efforts to update its legacy systems, some of which date back to the 1960s. In the era of 5G and broadband Internet, it is still hard to imagine why the IRS continues to use technology our children wouldn't even be able to recognize.

In addition, the IRS continues to face ongoing cybersecurity threats and fraud schemes, which seem to exploit IRS systems and steal taxpayer information and refunds. These issues result in the waste of billions of taxpayer dollars spent maintaining old systems.

We have also seen these outdated systems severely impact the IRS' ability to assist taxpayers. Whether it be long processing times for tax refunds or frustrations over the inability to reach the IRS by phone, the IRS' underlying IT affects all aspects of the taxpayers' experience.

For example, just yesterday we saw the magnitude of what can happen when the IRS IT systems fail. Yesterday, starting at 2 a.m., dozens of IRS systems integral to a successful filing season went down, leaving the agency unable to accept tax returns on the day when they were needed the most. While the full impact of these outages remains to be seen, this is simply unacceptable.

The bill before us today seeks to address many of these issues. It starts by requiring ongoing strategic IT planning, codifying and clearly laying out the roles and responsibilities of the chief information officer, and requiring additional oversight of two of the largest and most problematic IRS IT systems. Doing so strengthens IRS accountability for its IT modernization efforts, ensuring that the IRS spends taxpayer funds in ways that produce measurable results.

This bill also encourages the IRS to more proactively work with its State partners and the private sector to proactively combat criminals who use taxpayer information to steal tax returns. The bill provides the IRS with additional authority to allow the agency to work more closely with its partners.

Finally, the bill also sets forth a new goal for the IRS to have secure online accounts available for taxpayers and their designated preparers by 2023. The IRS has taken far too long to provide even the most basic of online services, and this bill ensures that the IRS will focus on providing more robust online services for those who want them.

As we think boldly about the IRS of the future, one that is oriented towards helping taxpayers, we should also think boldly about what a modern IRS looks like:

One where taxpayers can easily access their information, day or night; readily have their questions answered; and quickly resolve issues;

One where the IRS can be trusted to adequately protect taxpayer information; proactively combat identity theft, tax return fraud; and readily assist taxpayers when they are victims of this fraud;

And one where the IRS meets the taxpayer where they are, whether it be online, in person, or on the phone.

It also means having an IRS that is held accountable when modernization efforts fall short. As we work towards the first major overhaul of the IRS in 20 years, our goal is to ensure that these reforms are built upon IT systems that are state-of-the-art, ones that work for the taxpayer, not against them. These reforms are necessary and long overdue.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a score that we have received from the Congressional Budget Office.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, April 16, 2018.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 5445, the 21st Century IRS Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL,
Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 5445—21ST CENTURY IRS ACT

As reported by the House Committee on Ways and Means on April 13, 2018

H.R. 5445 aims to:

Combat identity theft and tax refund fraud at the Internal Revenue Services (IRS);

Create an automated system to verify taxpayer information for authorized users;

Modernize information technology (IT) systems within the IRS; and

Expand the use of electronic information systems within the IRS.

According to the IRS, most of the provisions in the bill regarding fraud and identity theft would codify current IRS policies and practices and implementing them would have no significant cost. However, other provisions, including modernizing the IRS's IT systems, developing a system to provide taxpayer income information to authorized users, and expanding the use of electronic information systems, would have a significant cost over the 2019–2023 period. For example, over the past five years, the IRS has spent an average of $290 million annually on modernizing its business systems. CBO has not completed an estimate of the cost of implementing those provisions.

The staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimates that enacting H.R. 5445 would increase revenues by less than $500,000. Pay-as-you-go procedures apply because the bill would affect revenues. Enacting H.R. 5445 would not affect direct spending.

CBO and JCT estimate that enacting H.R. 5445 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2029.

JCT has reviewed H.R. 5445 and determined that it contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5445. This bill is an important first step to bringing the IRS into the 21st century.

Let me begin by thanking the gentlewoman from Kansas, Ms. JENKINS, for her hard work on this bill. I would also like to thank our colleagues—the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE)—for their good work and their leadership on this bill. I would also like to thank our staff for helping us closely examine the IRS operation.

Before we put pen to paper, we took our time to learn about the agency and the taxpayer experience. In the past year, the Oversight Subcommittee held five hearings and four roundtable discussions on this bill. The staff also went on site visits to see the issues firsthand. In every meeting, the subcommittee heard concerns about outdated technology, the need for better coordination, and the increasing security threats.

In response, the committee developed a bipartisan bill that will improve the IRS IT system. The 21st Century IRS Act will also strengthen the role of the IRS chief information officer. Most importantly, H.R. 5445 will protect taxpayers' information and fight identity theft and tax refund fraud.

The 21st Century IRS Act addresses some of the most commonsense taxpayer service and IT challenges. It also continues the work of the former IRS Commissioner, who took steps to bring government and industry together to address some of these issues.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake, much more is needed. As we all know, identity theft and tax fraud continue to challenge tax administration. Congress' decisions to cut the agency's budget by nearly $1 billion over the past 8 years has not helped. We all understand that the IRS is in desperate need of more funding and more staff. These reductions harm both taxpayer services and tax administration.

Unfortunately, the chickens are coming home to roost—and I know something about chickens coming home to roost; I used to raise chickens—and showing the Nation that this path is not sustainable.

Yesterday, the IRS experienced a number of IT challenges. Although the IRS extended the tax filing deadline,

this experience showed the Nation how important it is that Congress invest in the IRS systems and operations. Mr. Speaker, I believe that each and every one of us cares deeply about the agency's ability to provide service to taxpayers. The 21st Century IRS Act is an important first step in this process.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES).

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5445, the 21st Century IRS Act, which would modernize the IRS, making it safer and more accessible to taxpayers.

It seems appropriate to discuss this bill on what has turned into the second tax day of 2018, after the IRS faced disruptive technical issues during yesterday's filing deadline. These glitches are a clear reminder of why we need to modernize the IRS.

Today, many taxpayers use their smartphones to pay bills, conduct business, and order pizza. Banks, businesses, and others in the private sector have continued to meet the demand of our tech-savvy citizens and have provided them with first-class service.

In addition to convenience and access, Americans deserve to have their identity protected when interacting with the public and private sector, whether that is offline or online. The IRS should be no different. That is why I am pleased this bill includes language about cybersecurity, identity theft, and information technology upgrades. Outdated systems from the 1960s are not the best way to protect the information of millions of Americans who interact with the IRS each year.

This tax day was the last day taxpayers had to file using an antiquated Tax Code. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation so that taxpayers no longer have to file using antiquated and unsecure technology.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE), the Democratic lead cosponsor.

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to thank our Oversight Subcommittee leaders, Mr. LEWIS and Ms. JENKINS, for all of their efforts on the important bills that we have been considering this week.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit with constituents of mine who are serving low-income taxpayers in our community through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. I am so pleased to see that this important partnership will be made permanent by legislation that we passed yesterday.

I am grateful to my colleague, Mr. BISHOP, for his hard work and for working with me on this bill, the 21st Century IRS Act. It is an important bill that enhances needed reforms to enhance cybersecurity and online access for taxpayers, including small-business owners. It is long past time for the IRS to enter the digital age and to give taxpayers a safe, secure, user-friendly online portal to serve their needs.

As a former State Department of Revenue director and a tech industry veteran, I know firsthand that coordination between private sector technology experts and tax administrators at the State and Federal level can produce real results for taxpayers and a better user experience for all stakeholders. We should strive to harness technology to create a more seamless and dependable experience for American families who are becoming increasingly accustomed to conducting their financial business safely online.

Something we saw yesterday is an ongoing challenge for the IRS. By codifying things like the Security Summit and the role of the IRS CIO, this bill should create some continuity in terms of prioritizing technology improvements and improving the taxpayer experience.

I am also glad that we are addressing improvements for small-business owners, like the development of an online portal for 1099 filings. I know small-business owners in my district and across the country are tired of waiting for more user-friendly, web-based systems, and this is a good first step for them. We should be streamlining the filing process so that they can spend less time and money on tax compliance and more on growing their businesses.

While this bill is clearly an incredibly important step forward, I would like to share the comments of a CPA who weighed in on the discussion draft of the legislation as a reminder that this is not the end of our work. He noted that cutting the IRS budget has been steadily cutting the effectiveness of the IRS for many years, and he said: ''We are at a perilous point where honest taxpayers are extremely frustrated. Fix it quick, or it will become too broken to fix.''

After hearing from IRS administrators, taxpayers, and technology experts over the past couple of years, I think we may be in or approaching the red zone of becoming too broken to fix. Just like a pothole that would cost $1,000 to fix today or $10,000 to fix tomorrow, we need to make some smart investments in IRS technology today before they become insurmountably expensive tomorrow.

Around 64 percent of IRS hardware is aged and out of warranty, and 32 percent of software is two or more versions out of date. Systems that the IRS relies on to store taxpayer data are failing, and they have serious concerns that they could break down or fail to withstand a cyber attack.

These are not issues we can let fester any longer. Let's build on the progress we are making here today to get those systems modernized and really get the job done for American taxpayers.

□ 1445

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY).

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the bill's sponsor, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS), for her leadership in putting this package together.

What a week to do it. Now, I firmly believe that God has a sense of humor, and God even has a sense of humor in the collection of our taxes. Because of an electronic filing system glitch at the IRS, because of a technology failure, the American people got a reprieve for 24 hours on filing their taxes. And miracle of miracles, we did not expect this, but a bipartisan bill comes to the floor to address the technology needs of the IRS. God, indeed, has a sense of humor or a deep understanding of public policy. But I think God is in all things, so he certainly is in this.

Now, that glitch of the IRS is just the public acknowledgment of the desperate need that we know this agency has to be modernized. We modernized the Tax Code, now we need to modernize the collection of our taxes as American people. The 21st Century IRS Act is the first comprehensive, bipartisan step to address this problem. Significant reforms are contained in this bill.

Now, take, for instance, my provision in the bill, for example. It is a bicameral, bipartisan piece of legislation that Congressman BLUMENAUER and I introduced here in the House and Senators BOOKER and CRAPO introduced in the Senate. That section of the bill, section 301, simply says the IRS has to stop using a manual process involving fax machines to verify income.

Now, the fax machine was a fantastic business product that became a consumer product in the 1980s. It is great technology, but it is not modern technology and not the best technology. And so while it may seem laughable that IRS employees are still sitting around using fax machines to process things that in the private sector would be done in an instant, in a second, in less than a second to verify using computer technology, the not-so-funny part is the impact it has had on the hardworking American people who are delayed in getting lending needs or getting their family needs met for financial decisions.

Mortgages, small business loans, student debt refinancing, and consumer debt, generally, those loans have to get a verification from the IRS on how much income they made last year. Now, all we are saying is modernize it, make it the standard of the private sector, and deliver better for the taxpayers.

It is bipartisan. I am grateful that we have initiatives like that in this broader package that we will see across the House floor and hopefully see into law. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes,'' and I thank the leadership on both sides of the aisle for making this day possible.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI).

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the bipartisan IRS reform package, including the 21st Century IRS Act.

There is a trust gap that exists between taxpayers and the IRS, and the IRS' information technology systems are a good example of why. The IRS has an urgent need to overhaul its IT systems, some of which date back to the Kennedy administration. But repeated mistakes, big and small, undermine our trust in them.

Take the $12 million they spent on a new email system they couldn't use. The inspector general report revealed the IRS bought it without first determining project infrastructure needs, integration requirements, business requirements, and whether the subscriptions were technologically feasible.

Or take the Return Review Program, the RRP. The new fraud detection program came in years behind schedule and hundreds of millions of dollars over budget. Here are just a few of the reasons the IRS cited when it put the RRP into a strategic pause in 2014.

They said, they paused ''to determine the priority and direction from IRS senior leadership; to articulate and align on RRP's role in the broader business vision; to ensure clear and concise understanding of scope, cost, and schedule'' with contractors; and, finally, budgetary constraints.

Mr. Speaker, unforced errors are turning vital projects into boondoggles. We could be applauding the IRS for buying a system off the shelf. Instead, we are scolding them for not asking the most basic questions before buying it.

I hear complaints about the IRS' budget, and I think about the RRP. Senior leadership gave no direction, no one knew how it would fit into the big picture, and contractors were way out of the loop. Everyone essentially ran in circles until they ran out of money. You know what? More money can't fix failed leadership or a broken culture. Better guidelines, codified rules, and more intentional strategic planning can.

That is why I introduced H.R. 5362, the IRS Information Technology Accountability Act, and I am thankful it was included in the 21st Century IRS Act. My bill takes some important steps to prevent future boondoggles and instill accountability.

Number one, codifying the responsibilities of the chief information officer, or the CIO; two, requiring the CIO to develop, implement, and update a multiyear IT strategic plan; and three, requiring regular coordination between the CIO and the chief procurement officer.

It also singles out two major projects for independent verification and validation. The first is CADE 2. It is still years from completion and almost a decade and $1 billion spent. The other, Enterprise Case Management, is a system that was supposed to be used agency-wide but was suspended because the IRS bought software that couldn't be used agency-wide. These projects need to be on a better trajectory.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud we are taking important bipartisan steps to close this IRS trust gap. I want to thank Chairman BRADY, Chairman JENKINS, and Mr. BISHOP for all of their hard work on this bill. I urge my colleagues to support the 21st Century IRS Act.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support my bill, H.R. 5445, the 21st Century IRS Act, a bill that will improve cybersecurity and taxpayer identity protection, as well as modernize the information technology system at the IRS. I am grateful today for the bipartisan support. This is a very important issue.

One of the most common, heartbreaking issues I have had to deal with on a recurring basis since I have been elected a member of elected government is identity theft. That is why I wrote the Michigan Identity Theft Protection Act while serving in the Michigan Senate.

I am disheartened to say, however, that since coming to Congress, those stories of identity theft have only become more frequent and are often compounded by problems in dealing with the IRS, many of which center around the delays due to their outdated technology.

Take, for instance, my constituent, Lance. Lance filed his 2015 Federal return in March of 2016. In May of that year, he was notified that his refund was being held until the IRS could verify certain items. Over the next 8 months, Lance tried multiple times to get additional information from the IRS. Finally, in January, they told him that his case had been closed, yet he had not received his refund.

Over the next 6 months, his case was reopened and went from being flagged for identity theft, then cleared, only to be flagged again. Finally, after 18 months of back and forth with the IRS, Lance received his refund of tens of thousands of dollars.

While we want to be vigilant in protecting taxpayers' identities, these unnecessary delays are bad for everyone. I know I am not alone in this Chamber. Most of us, if not all of the Members of this body, have heard a distressed story from a constituent about how they had their tax refund stolen.

That is why my legislation will codify a current public-private partnership, whereby the IRS engages with States and industry to find ways to reduce identity theft tax refund fraud. This will provide them with additional tools to proactively identify trends and schemes as they come about. By heading off ID theft at the beginning of the process, we can eliminate the need for the IRS to chase down fraudulently paid refunds and reduce the burden on the unfortunate taxpayers who have had their identities stolen.

Mr. Speaker, another source of delay at the IRS and angst for our constituents comes from the severely outdated IT systems at the IRS. Take, for instance, another constituent of mine, Tom from Oakland County. Tom had a return audited, and the auditor mistakenly entered his income by misplacing a decimal point by two spaces and recorded Tom's income as being 100 times its actual amount. This resulted in the IRS telling Tom that he owed a tax bill 18 times his income for that year.

After my office and the Taxpayer Advocate's Office got involved, the IRS fixed the issue but told Tom that he might still receive collection letters until the computer system was able to update with the correct information. This uncertainty coming from the IRS is simply unacceptable. The outdated technology at the IRS is not the fault of the taxpayer.

Now, to address this issue, this legislation includes an important provision that my colleague, Mrs. WALORSKI, has worked on for a very long time. It provides much needed accountability by setting forth clear guidelines, processes, and responsibilities for the IRS officials who are responsible for maintaining and modernizing the IRS IT.

It also includes a provision put forward by Mr. RENACCI, which would allow businesses to file their 1099 information through a taxpayer-friendly internet portal. This will ease the compliance burden for taxpayers and businesses and allow the IRS to get tax information in a timely manner, which will improve the quality and accuracy of the security checks.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, we live in a world of constantly emerging threats and sophisticated criminals who are probing and trying to gain access to the IRS, and, ultimately, the taxpayer's information. The 21st Century IRS Act will help move the IRS in the right direction with meaningful and bipartisan solutions.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill and a necessary bill. Again, I thank the chair, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BISHOP), the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE), and all of our colleagues for their hard and good work. We should be very, very proud of the process and the product. I urge all of my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to thank, once again, the ranking member, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS),

for his hard work on this issue, and I appreciate the staff's dedication to getting this to the floor today. This is a thoughtful, bipartisan piece of legislation that will help move the IRS forward and refocus the agency on the taxpayer experience, and I urge all Members to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 831, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5:15 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1730

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 5 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 18, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 18, 2018, at 5:06 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S.J. Res. 57.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Passage of H.R. 5445;

Passage of H.R. 5444; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2905.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

21ST CENTURY IRS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 5445) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve cybersecurity and taxpayer identity protection, and modernize the information technology of the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 3, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 145]

YEAS—414

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Banks (IN)
Barletta
Barr
Barragán
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capuano
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crist
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Curtis
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DelBene
Demings
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Dunn
Ellison
Emmer
Engel
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes (KS)
Esty (CT)
Evans
Faso
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garrett
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gottheimer
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Handel
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Katko
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Knight
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (MN)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham, M.
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Marshall
Mast
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Norman
O'Halleran
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Ros-Lehtinen
Rosen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce (CA)
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Rutherford
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Speier
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NAYS—3

Amash
Massie
Sanford

NOT VOTING—12

Amodei
Black
Bridenstine
Cartwright
Comstock
DeLauro
Garamendi
Keating
Nunes
Rooney, Thomas J.
Scalise
Simpson

□ 1753

Mr. AMASH changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. PASCRELL and RUSH changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TAXPAYER FIRST ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL). The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 5444) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 0, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 146]

YEAS—414

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Amash
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Banks (IN)
Barletta
Barr
Barragán
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capuano
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crist
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Curtis
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DelBene
Demings
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellison
Emmer
Engel
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes (KS)
Esty (CT)
Evans
Faso
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garrett
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gottheimer
Gowdy
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Handel
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Katko
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kihuen
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Knight
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
Labrador
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (MN)
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham, M.
Luján, Ben Ray
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Marshall
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Messer
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Norman
O'Halleran
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pascrell
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney, Francis
Ros-Lehtinen
Rosen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce (CA)
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Rutherford
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez
Sanford
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Torres
Trott
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters, Maxine
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—15

Amodei
Black
Bridenstine
Cartwright
Comstock
DeLauro
Dunn
Garamendi
Keating
Nunes
Pelosi
Rooney, Thomas J.
Scalise
Simpson
Speier

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1802

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF IRS SCAMS AND IDENTITY THEFT ACT OF 2018

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2905) to require the Attorney General to establish procedures for expedited review of the case of any person who unlawfully solicits personal information for purposes of committing identity theft, while purporting to be acting on behalf of the IRS, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 403, nays 3, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 147]

YEAS—403

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Banks (IN)
Barletta
Barr
Barragán
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blum
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brat
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capuano
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crist
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Curtis
Davidson
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DelBene
Demings
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Ellison
Emmer
Engel
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes (KS)
Esty (CT)
Evans
Faso
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garrett
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Goodlatte
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hanabusa
Handel
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings
Heck
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Hice, Jody B.
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur

Katko	Mitchell	Schweikert
Kelly (IL)	Moolenaar	Scott (VA)
Kelly (MS)	Mooney (WV)	Scott, Austin
Kelly (PA)	Moore	Scott, David
Kennedy	Moulton	Sensenbrenner
Khanna	Mullin	Serrano
Kihuen	Murphy (FL)	Sessions
Kildee	Nadler	Sewell (AL)
Kilmer	Napolitano	Shea-Porter
Kind	Neal	Sherman
King (IA)	Newhouse	Shimkus
King (NY)	Noem	Shuster
Kinzinger	Nolan	Sinema
Knight	Norcross	Sires
Krishnamoorthi	Norman	Smith (MO)
Kuster (NH)	O'Halleran	Smith (NE)
Kustoff (TN)	O'Rourke	Smith (NJ)
Labrador	Olson	Smith (TX)
LaHood	Palazzo	Smith (WA)
LaMalfa	Pallone	Smucker
Lamb	Palmer	Soto
Lamborn	Panetta	Stefanik
Lance	Pascrell	Stewart
Langevin	Paulsen	Stivers
Larsen (WA)	Payne	Suozzi
Larson (CT)	Pearce	Swalwell (CA)
Latta	Pelosi	Takano
Lawrence	Perlmutter	Taylor
Lawson (FL)	Perry	Tenney
Lee	Peters	Thompson (CA)
Levin	Peterson	Thompson (PA)
Lewis (GA)	Pingree	Thornberry
Lewis (MN)	Pittenger	Tipton
Lieu, Ted	Pocan	Titus
Lipinski	Poliquin	Tonko
LoBiondo	Polis	Torres
Loebsack	Posey	Trott
Lofgren	Price (NC)	Tsongas
Long	Quigley	Turner
Loudermilk	Raskin	Upton
Love	Ratcliffe	Valadao
Lowenthal	Reed	Vargas
Lowey	Reichert	Veasey
Lucas	Renacci	Vela
Luetkemeyer	Rice (NY)	Velázquez
Lujan Grisham, M.	Rice (SC)	Visclosky
	Richmond	Wagner
Luján, Ben Ray	Roby	Walberg
Lynch	Roe (TN)	Walden
MacArthur	Rogers (AL)	Walorski
Maloney, Carolyn B.	Rogers (KY)	Walters, Mimi
	Rohrabacher	Wasserman Schultz
Maloney, Sean	Rokita	Waters, Maxine
Marino	Rooney, Francis	Watson Coleman
Marshall	Ros-Lehtinen	Weber (TX)
Mast	Rosen	Webster (FL)
Matsui	Roskam	Welch
McCarthy	Ross	Wenstrup
McCaul	Rothfus	Westerman
McClintock	Rouzer	Williams
McCollum	Royce (CA)	Wilson (FL)
McEachin	Ruiz	Wilson (SC)
McGovern	Ruppersberger	Wittman
McHenry	Rush	Womack
McKinley	Russell	Woodall
McMorris Rodgers	Rutherford	Yarmuth
	Ryan (OH)	Yoder
McNerney	Sánchez	Yoho
McSally	Sanford	Young (AK)
Meadows	Sarbanes	Young (IA)
Meehan	Schakowsky	Zeldin
Meeks	Schiff	
Meng	Schneider	
Messer	Schrader	

NAYS—3

Amash	Massie	Thompson (MS)

NOT VOTING—23

Amodei	Dunn	Rooney, Thomas J.
Black	Garamendi	
Bridenstine	Gosar	Roybal-Allard
Cartwright	Gowdy	Scalise
Castor (FL)	Keating	Simpson
Comstock	Marchant	Speier
DeLauro	Nunes	Walker
DesJarlais	Poe (TX)	Walz

□ 1809

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: ''A bill to require the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury to report to Congress on efforts to combat identity theft, including by persons purporting to be acting on behalf of the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 145, "yea" on rollcall No. 146 and "yea" on rollcall No. 147.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW, AND ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018, TO MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2018

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow; and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 3 p.m. on Monday, April 23, 2018.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING DOROTHY McINTYRE AS A PIONEER FOR WOMEN'S SPORTS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a pioneer of women's sports in Minnesota, Dorothy McIntyre, who was recently inducted in the Minnesota High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

There are very few who have done more to advance Minnesota girls sports than Eden Prairie coach and teacher, Dorothy McIntyre. Dorothy arrived in Eden Prairie in 1959, with girls sports in Minnesota nearly nonexistent. But Dorothy led a courageous group of like-minded colleagues to push for change.

Progress was slow. Gymnastics was first, tennis next, and basketball not until 1976. But Dorothy kept at it, and when she was told girls must play basketball in the fall instead of the winter, her answer was a firm: No, that's not fair. She got results, and today, girls play basketball just like the boys do, and Dorothy McIntyre is a big reason why.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Dorothy McIntyre on her well-deserved induction into the Minnesota High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. CRIST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, Friday marks the eighth anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

I was Governor of Florida at the time. I remember the tar balls. I remember them coming up on our beautiful beaches—as the ambassador does; marine life covered in toxic sludge; the harm done to Florida's tourism and fisheries industries; and, of course, the tragic loss of life aboard the Deepwater Horizon itself.

Mr. Speaker, I haven't forgotten it. Florida has not forgotten it. We must never have drilling off the Florida coast. We should take that argument off the table.

TERM LIMITS

(Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Thomas Jefferson Public Service Act of 2018, a bill that will effectively put term limits in place without amending the Constitution.

The act will reduce the salary of an elected Member of Congress to $1 a year after they serve six consecutive terms in the House, or two consecutive terms in the Senate, and does not require a constitutional amendment.

My home State of Florida passed term limits with 76 percent approval. A recent nationwide poll showed that over 82 percent of the American voters support term limits for Congress.

Is it possible a disruptive game-changing measure such as this could instill confidence in Congress and set the stage for a wave of innovation and accomplishment?

From Cincinnatus to President George Washington, history is replete with examples of leaders who served their country for a time and then returned to private life or other public service.

It is time to return to the concept of the citizen legislator.

□ 1815

HONORING NICHOLAS THOMAS EVANS

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nicholas Thomas Evans, a leader in my district and a champion for Genesee County families, who passed away rather suddenly just recently.

Nick was born in London, England, but raised in Holly, Michigan. Nicholas started his career as a leader in the Genesee County branch of the American Cancer Society. In 1998, he accepted a position at Kettering University, and in 2003, he came to the Genesys Health System.

During his career, Nicholas did so much and offered so much to our community, leading important initiatives like the Genesys Health Park Campus

Plan, the PACE program in Flint, the revitalization of so many parts of our community, and empowering women through the Michigan Food & Farming Systems and the Women in Agriculture program.

There were so many things that Nick did. I can't even go through the long list. But for all of us back home, we will just miss him.

His wife, Kim, and his daughters, Madison and Camryn, I am sure will miss him forever. He loved them, he loved his community, and he gave so much to his community. We loved him. He was a friend, and we will miss him.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF FORMER FIRST LADY BARBARA BUSH

(Mr. ARRINGTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the passing of a very special person and the epitome of a First Lady, Barbara Pierce Bush. As First Lady, Mrs. Bush was praised for bringing the power of literacy to others, but America will remember her most for her fierce love and commitment to her family.

Mrs. Bush embodied the best of America: strong, compassionate, and spirited. She, like her husband, believed that public service is a noble calling, and she stewarded that calling with class and grace.

Our country would not have been blessed with the principled leadership of both our 41st and 43rd Presidents if it were not for the strong character and devotion of Barbara Bush.

Her dedication to family values wasn't just a political talking point; it was her life's mission, and now, her greatest legacy.

While I grieve with my dear friend, President George W. Bush, and his family, I join them in celebrating a life well lived, and thanking God with gracing us with Barbara Bush.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SONNY MELTON

(Mr. KIHUEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Sonny Melton.

Sonny was lucky to find the love of his life while working at the Henry County Medical Center in Paris, Tennessee. As a certified nurse, Sonny would often assist his wife, Dr. Heather Melton, during surgeries.

Sonny and Heather had planned to move into a lake house together. They were in the process of building it in Big Sandy, Tennessee.

They traveled to Las Vegas together to celebrate their 1-year anniversary at the Route 91 festival. When gunfire erupted, Sonny died when he was trying to get his wife out of harm's way.

Sonny's wife and all those who knew him remember Sonny as an enthusiastic man who had an infectious positive attitude.

I would like to extend my condolences to Sonny Melton's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the entire country mourn with you.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF FIRST LADY BARBARA BUSH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my condolences and my sympathy to the family of former First Lady Barbara Bush.

Mr. Speaker, the Nation was heartbroken upon hearing the news that Mrs. Bush passed away last night at her home in Houston. She was 92.

Mrs. Bush was widely admired and a beloved First Lady. She was a leader not only for her family, but for this Nation.

She served as First Lady from January 1, 1989, to January 1993. She was known for her immeasurable kindness, yet she wasn't afraid to be outspoken—even frank—when the occasion called for it.

She was witty and feisty, and above all else, she was Barbara: a wife, a mother, and a grandmother.

This Nation will remember her as a fiercely and devoted matriarch of a great American family, but also as an advocate for all American families.

Mr. Speaker, I leave you with the words of Barbara Bush: ''When all the dust is settled and all the crowds are gone, the things that matter are faith, family, and friends.''

May God bless Mrs. Barbara Bush.

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a historical moment for the great State of Illinois. Two hundred years ago today, in this very building, legislation was passed by the 15th Congress and later signed by President James Monroe which allowed the people of the Illinois territory to proceed with statehood.

This legislation paved the way for representatives in the territory to form a convention from which a State government would later emerge. At the time, in 1818, only 11 counties existed in the territory that could send representatives to the convention to draft governing documents.

Three of these 11 counties are within my congressional district. I have often said how humble I am to represent a part of Illinois that President Lincoln represented when he served in this Chamber, but I am also immensely proud to represent the area that pioneered Illinois' statehood.

In December of this year, Illinois will celebrate its bicentennial as a State in our Union. I have called Illinois home for over 40 years, and I am honored to stand here today and recognize the history that was made in this building 200 years ago today.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN MARK WEBER

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Mark K. Weber who died in a helicopter crash on March 15 while serving in our Armed Forces in Iraq.

Captain Weber was a combat rescue officer assigned to the 38th Rescue Squadron based at Moody's Air Force Base in the First Congressional District of Georgia. He was one of seven in the helicopter crash who lost their lives serving our country that day. As a combat rescue officer, Captain Weber's role with his team was to fly into combat and rescue injured soldiers.

I want to thank Captain Weber and his family for his service. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and his friends.

Mr. Speaker, I want all of our servicemen and -women to know that we are ever grateful for their service. They are in our thoughts and prayers, and I could not thank them enough for the work they are doing to spread democracy and freedom across the globe.

HONORING MEMBERS FROM AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY INFORMATION DIRECTORATE

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members from the Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate, otherwise known as Rome Lab.

Rome Lab has been recognized by the Federal Laboratory Consortium for its superiority in technology transfer work. Technology transfer work is a process by which existing knowledge or capabilities developed under Federal funding are used to fulfill public and private needs.

The winners of this year's FLC high-profile award are Ralph Kohler, Frank Hoke, Sean Patten, Joseph Mancini, David Canestrare, Daniel Carpenter, Joshua Sterling, Richard Newkirk, Sam Davis, and Mark Linderman.

This group of brilliant minds created the Android Team Awareness Kit, or ATAK. This is a profoundly useful software collaboration that runs on an android mobile operating system. It can

connect multiple people on the go, giving them a common operation picture right on their handheld phone. It currently has 40,000 Department of Defense users and 32,000 non-Federal users. The winners from Rome Lab created an easy access portal that allows the government to provide ATAK to citizens, enabling better communication and information sharing.

This technology transfer benefits Rome Lab, its mission, the government, and all users. A great example of how ATAK was extraordinarily beneficial was during the 2017 hurricanes. Because of Rome Lab's work, civilian, State, and military teams were able to communicate to rescue people and save lives.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate this group of brilliant young people and thank them for continuing to make the Air Force Research Lab, otherwise known as Rome Lab, a world leader in advanced technology.

CAPITOL HILL COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, next week, on April 24, we will mark the 103rd anniversary of the infamous Armenian genocide. The date of the commemoration marks the anniversary of Red Sunday, the night when the Ottoman Empire Government gave the order to arrest and intern approximately 250 Armenian intellectuals in Istanbul.

Less than 2 months after Red Sunday, the end of May 1915, the government enacted legislation that unleashed unspeakable widespread government-organized evictions, massacres, and deportations. As many as 1.5 million people perished. It was about the annihilation of the Armenian people.

In September of 2000, I held the first-ever hearing on the Armenian genocide here in Congress. Three years ago this month, I chaired another hearing on the 100th anniversary.

At the time, I noted that the Armenian genocide is the only one of the genocides of the 20th century in which the nation that was decimated by genocide has been subjected to ongoing outrage of a massive campaign of genocidal denial, openly sustained by state authority—that would be the Turkish Government. That has to change, and this horrible, horrible genocide needs to be recognized by our government for what it was.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, the opioid epidemic has swept across the country impacting millions of Americans who lost loved ones to this preventable crisis. No community is immune.

Just as the President of the United States has said, this is, in fact, the crisis next door.

This is even more true in neighborhoods in north Texas where we are all too familiar with this fatal epidemic.

Overdose deaths from opioids have increased more than five times in the last 30 years, and it is estimated that more than 115 Americans die each and every day from opiate-related overdoses. There is no question that we must act to stop this crisis.

To that end, I am very grateful to the members of my committee, the Committee on Energy and Commerce. I am grateful to the chairman of the committee for participating in this hour.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), who is the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. BURGESS and appreciate his leadership on this issue and the hard work he and his members on both sides of the aisle have done on the Subcommittee on Health in the Energy and Commerce Committee.

As we all know, the opioid crisis is wreaking havoc and death on our Nation. It is striking at the heart of communities from one side of the country to the other. On any given day, you can browse the headlines to learn of yet another life lost to addiction or about a raid that seized overwhelming quantities of prescription painkillers or illicit drugs.

At roundtables throughout my district in Oregon over the last few years, I have met with those victims. I have met with their families. I have talked to doctors and treatment advocates. I have met with law enforcement officers on the front lines of this fight. Sadly, their stories are all too similar and all too familiar, but they put the names and faces to this crisis that has touched every community in our country.

We are here tonight because this crisis is having a devastating impact on each of our districts and the people who live in them. No community is exempt from the scourge of addiction. Nobody is immune from the dangers of powerful drugs. The crisis has taken a hold on the very fabric of our Nation, and we must do everything we can to stem the tide of addiction, to help those who are addicted, and to stop the deaths and destruction that follow the abuse of opiates.

Earlier this week, I visited the Prescribed to Death opioid memorial that was stationed at the White House Ellipse. I was able to see the individual faces of Americans who lost their own battles with opioid addiction etched into the 22,000 pills on display. There was one for each fatal overdose in 2015.

□ 1830

It is a daunting visual. It was made only more poignant by the knowledge that those numbers have only continued to climb.

More than 100 Americans die from opioid overdoses every single day, claiming the lives of more than 42,000 Americans who died in 2016 alone. That same year, we lost 506 Oregonians from opioid overdoses.

The committee—in particular, the Energy and Commerce Committee and your subcommittee, Mr. Chairman—has a long history of working to combat this evolving epidemic, from launching our earliest investigations in 2012 to advancing bipartisan legislation like the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, CARA, and the 21st Century Cures Act.

Most recently, we included critical funding to aid in the fight in the recent government spending bill that President Trump signed into law. This legislation included a record amount of resources to combat the crisis, providing billions of dollars to communities across America to tackle one of the biggest public health problems in a generation. But we know that more can and must be done.

Now, the good news is that combating the opioid crisis is our committee's top priority. It is why we have reviewed literally dozens and dozens and dozens of comprehensive, bold, and bipartisan pieces of legislation. In total, these bills will bolster our enforcement efforts, will protect our communities, will advance our public health and prevention efforts, and will address coverage and payment issues within Medicaid and Medicare.

Tomorrow at the Energy and Commerce Committee, we will hear the personal stories from families affected by the drug crisis and individuals who are battling addiction. Then, next week, the Energy and Commerce Committee will mark these bills up in our Health Subcommittee. It is an important step forward to keep us on track in our goal of having legislation to this House floor ahead of the Memorial Day district work period.

We know that there is no silver bullet, there is no one-size-fits-all approach that will remedy the catastrophic effects of this crisis that has been building for the last decade, but much more can be done. We will do much more, and we will do it on a bipartisan basis, to help vulnerable patients get the treatment they want and need, remembering there are some 20 million Americans with chronic pain. And we will ensure these powerful drugs are not getting into the wrong hands.

As I conclude, I think it is important to point out that, if people want more information, they can go to energycommerce.house.gov/opioids and see the testimony that we have received and the work that we are engaged in to rid this country of this terrible scourge and make our communities safer again.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the full committee for his participation in this hour tonight.

The chairman is correct; our committee has a history of working in a bipartisan fashion. This, obviously, is an illness that can strike regardless of political party or political persuasion; and in the interest of that theme, I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN), my counterpart, the ranking member on the Democratic side of the dais in the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Health Subcommittee.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair of our Health Subcommittee for organizing this Special Order tonight because it is so important to our country.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to the countless Americans suffering from opioid addiction in Houston and Harris County, Texas, whom I represent, and throughout our great country. I call on Congress and the Trump administration to take immediate action to help our fellow Americans in need.

The Department of Health and Human Services estimates that over 2 million Americans suffer from opioid use disorder and millions more misuse their legally prescribed opioids. Most troubling are the 42,000 Americans who died from opioid-related overdoses in 2016 alone, including over 2,800 victims of opioid addiction in Texas.

The economic burden of prescription opioid misuse in our country is estimated to cost over $78 billion a year, including the cost of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and the criminal justice system. We must do more to turn the tide against the opioid epidemic and give Americans the tools to overcome addiction and rebuild their lives.

In the past 2 years, Congress has made a concerted effort to help Americans and prevent abuse from happening in the first place. In 2016, the Committee on Energy and Commerce wrote and passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA, the first major Federal addiction legislation in 40 years, the most comprehensive effort to address the opioid crisis.

I supported CARA when it was considered by our committee and am proud of our results, a law that provides over $180 million annually to our State and local partners to help support prevention, recovery, overdose reversal, law enforcement, and criminal justice reform.

The Health Subcommittee, on which I am proud to serve as ranking member, is currently holding a series of hearings on opioids. Last month, I introduced, with Congressman BRETT GUTHRIE of Kentucky, the Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers Act, H.R. 5237. This legislation would fund designated treatment centers where individuals will receive comprehensive, patient-centered care for opioid addiction and other substance abuse disorders. It is our intention to build model practices for treatment and recovery that can be duplicated nationwide.

I am also working on legislation that would clarify the Food and Drug Administration authority to consider potential for misuse and abuse when assessing risks and benefits of controlled substances for approval. Our expert agencies must have clear authority to consider the potential harm of medical therapies and protect Americans if the harm outweighs the benefits.

Federal programs like Medicaid, Medicare, and coverage through the Affordable Care Act are critical in ensuring Americans struggling with opioid abuse have access to treatment and recovery. The Kaiser Family Foundation reported in February that nearly 4 in 10 adults under the age of 65 with an opioid addiction received their coverage through Medicaid. Any honest effort by Congress to address the opioid epidemic must include measures to stabilize and strengthen health exchanges and make coverage accessible for Americans who currently do not have health insurance, including the 3 million Americans who lost their insurance last year.

I ask for the Energy and Commerce Committee to come together and agree on a package of bills that will affirmatively help Americans struggling with opioid abuse and prevent abuse from happening. The American people deserve nothing less.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his participation this evening.

Again, the problem is not likely to be solved by one political party or the other. It is going to require a collaborative approach. Opioid abuse can happen by access to dangerous drugs in a family member's medicine cabinet or by obtaining them illegally. The fight against this crisis is indeed a team effort, and we must evaluate it from all angles.

We must consider how opiate medications are produced and distributed, and we must look at how agencies track and respond to distribution discrepancies. We are required to take a hard look at how the medications are prescribed and dispensed, while addressing the disposal of unused medication. We need to look at the treatment for those who suffer from addictions and the future of pain medications.

It is also imperative that we address the access and enforcement of illicit drugs. We must work to stop the unfettered distribution of harmful drugs that flow into this country from outside our borders.

Earlier this year, I joined the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, Dr. Scott Gottlieb, in visiting the international mail facility at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York. This facility is one of nine in our country and acts as a barrier for these illicit and dangerous drugs being sent to America through the international mail. The Food and Drug Administration and the United States Customs and Border Patrol, together, work to identify and destroy dangerous substances hidden in pieces of mail, but more authority is needed to provide these agencies with tools to swiftly act and act more efficiently.

There are millions of suspicious packages full of illicit drugs and other contraband crossing our borders. Sometimes the FDA is powerless in its ability to destroy these harmful and illicit substances, sometimes they are required to send them back to the sender, and sometimes they will see a package recycled and brought back into this country for yet another try. That, Mr. Speaker, must end.

Now, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Health, I have already held three hearings and considered a total of 67 related opiate bills. Last October, we opened the doors of the subcommittee to any Member, not just of the subcommittee, not just of the full committee, but any Member of Congress who wanted to come and talk to us about problems they have seen in their district related to opiates, solutions that they may be considering or people in their communities might have asked them to consider.

We heard from well over 50 Members of Congress that day, and as a consequence of that Member involvement, we have distilled these 67 pieces of legislation. We have had three legislative hearings. We have heard from key members of the administration. We have heard from stakeholders who are at the forefront of our efforts to stem this epidemic.

We have evaluated this crisis from all fronts, from public health and prevention and intervention, law enforcement, education and recovery, and then finally, lastly, looking at the Medicaid and Medicare programs and the role that they may play. It is evident that this is a multifaceted problem and will require an all-hands-on-deck approach.

As a physician, I also understand and respect the importance of successfully treating and managing patients with chronic pain. One of the reasons that most of us went into the practice of medicine was to be of service. One of the highest callings is to ask to be worthy to serve the suffering. Opiates are an essential tool. We must respect the fatal and addictive properties that opiates possess, while also understanding the vital role that these medications play in the lives of individuals who are suffering from serious or chronic illness, such as cancer.

As we evaluate this complex issue, we must strike the right balance between necessary enforcement and patient safety. Unfortunately, there is no easy answer and there is no single party to blame.

We also know that Congress cannot fight this battle alone. We must all work to strengthen our commitment to overcome this scourge. With an average of more than 100 Americans dying

every day from opiate overdoses, we must be willing to ask hard questions and consider solutions.

At this time, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER), who is a member of the Health Subcommittee and also the chairman of the Energy Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and has led a number of our efforts in trying to control the opiate crisis.

Mr. HARPER, thank you for joining us tonight.

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for organizing this time on the floor today to focus on the opioid crisis in our country.

For many years, telehealth has been a priority for me as a critical way to deliver healthcare services to patients across the country. Through my work as chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I now view telehealth as an important part of the solution to the opioid crisis, as it increases patient access to needed treatments and improves outcomes through the availability of better healthcare services to more patients.

Congresswoman MATSUI of California and I have been working on drafting a bill to increase access to substance use treatment through the use of telehealth in community mental health centers. Each year, 64,000 Americans die from overdose. In rural, underserved States like my home State of Mississippi, this threat is especially concerning, as patients often lack access to addiction and psychiatric healthcare providers equipped to provide needed treatments.

The concerns are great; therefore, Congresswoman MATSUI and I have been working to draft legislation that would enable local facilities to register with the Drug Enforcement Administration and be able to use telemedicine to prescribe appropriate treatments for patients in need.

Mississippi has been recognized as a leader in using telehealth to reach patients who otherwise would not have access to care. The University of Mississippi Medical Center's Center for Telehealth was selected as a national Telehealth Center of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to innovate and test new delivery models for telehealth.

With leaders like the University of Mississippi Medical Center working to maximize available resources and provide care via telehealth, I believe that this technology offers a promising solution to combating the opioid crisis in our country. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee to advance these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WALDEN and Chairman BURGESS—and many others, of course—for their dedication to this issue. I appreciate the opportunity to speak.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi for participating in our Special Order tonight. I thank him for his leadership in the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and the work that he has done to help control this crisis.

I now yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE), vice chairman of the Health Subcommittee, for his observations.

□ 1845

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the subcommittee for organizing this event.

On behalf of the 1,419 Kentuckians who died of an opioid overdose in 2016, and the countless more who are currently suffering from opioid addiction, I rise today in support of legislation to combat our Nation's opioid epidemic.

Everywhere I go in Kentucky's Second District, I hear from people who have felt the impact of the opioid crisis. The range of people falling victim to opioid use disorder is vast—from babies born with opioid withdrawal, to adults of all ages and backgrounds, even students, brothers and sisters, moms and dads. It doesn't matter if someone becomes addicted to opioids after they have sprained an ankle or following major surgery—anyone who has been prescribed opioid painkillers could be at risk, and we need to find a way to help the thousands of people who have, in fact, become addicted.

I recently introduced two pieces of legislation to combat our widespread opioid crisis. The first is the Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers Act of 2018. I was proud to introduce this bipartisan bill with the Health Subcommittee ranking member, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GENE GREEN), the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON), and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN).

This bill addresses the current lack of comprehensive treatment options available to opioid use disorder patients. Currently, there is a wide range of treatment options from faith-based abstinence programs to FDA-approved medications, but not everyone has access to the specific treatments they need.

Patients usually seek treatment from a facility convenient to them in their own community or from a facility that is covered by their insurance. However, most facilities only offer a single type of treatment, which may or may not work for each individual patient. The Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers Act would provide grant money to help create treatment centers where every FDA-approved option is available to each patient.

These centers would also include intake services and help with reentering the community and provide data to the Department of Health and Human Services so that other treatment centers can learn and apply best practices to provide more patients with comprehensive care.

I also introduced the bipartisan Maternal Opioid Treatment, Health, Education, and Recovery Act, known as the MOTHER Act, with Congressman BEN RAY LUJÁN. Opioid addiction is a serious risk to anyone's health, but it can even be more harmful and life-threatening for a pregnant woman and her child. This bill would help healthcare providers better treat pregnant women with opioid use disorder as well as babies who are born experiencing opioid withdrawal.

The MOTHER Act increases education about neonatal abstinence syndrome, which sadly affects babies whose mothers suffer from opioid use disorder, and the bill also provides resources for pregnant mothers and caregivers. It highlights the need for responsible pain management for expectant mothers.

Our Nation is in the middle of combating a serious opioid epidemic, and all of us on both sides of the aisle can agree on the need to act with urgency on all fronts. I was proud to join with my Democratic colleagues to introduce two bipartisan bills that would address important aspects of the opioid crisis. I urge my colleagues to support the Comprehensive Opioid Recovery Centers Act and the MOTHER Act. I thank the subcommittee chairman for organizing this.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for his participation this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY), the vice chairman of the Environment Subcommittee.

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BURGESS for organizing this Special Order event.

Mr. Speaker, the United States represents only 5 percent of the global population, yet we consume over 80 percent of the opioids produced around the world. Shouldn't that have raised a red flag?

Since 2011, our office has conducted over 50 roundtable meetings with doctors, pharmacists, nurses, and law enforcement, listening and learning from professionals how we could best address this problem.

Congress has acted. As you heard a minute ago, the 21st Century Cures Act and CARA were good first steps, but it is evident that more work needs to be done.

Last month, under President Trump and the Republican Congress leadership, we secured an additional $4 billion in funding, the largest investment ever in this crisis. We have made progress in other areas. In the book, ''American Pain'' by John Temple, he cites an ever-increasing production quota as a contributing factor to this drug opioid abuse. Even as it became clear that the opioid abuse was a growing problem, our producers in pharmaceuticals were producing more and more pain medicine. Fortunately, yesterday, the DEA, under the leadership of President Trump, announced that they would finally begin limiting the number of pills being produced.

I also had the honor of working with the White House on the Opioid Task

Force; and thanks to Chairman WALDEN, the Energy and Commerce Committee has made fighting the opioid crisis a top priority. You heard his comments when he said that.

Our committee has been crafting another comprehensive opioid package aimed at treatment, prevention, education, and enforcement. Over the past few weeks, the committee has reviewed numerous bills, and I am proud to say—and I thank Chairman BURGESS—that two of those bills are pieces that our office has crafted.

Now, as for the role of pharmacies. Currently, each State maintains its own database on prescriptions, but that information isn't always typically shared with neighboring States. So the committee is taking under consideration a nationwide prescription drug monitoring program, which would prevent people from abusing the system by filling their prescription in multiple States.

Congress needs to shut down these illicit, illegal pharmaceutical drug sales on social media, just as the Commissioner of the FDA made a strong recommendation just 2 weeks ago.

And, lastly, it is time to tighten our border security to stop the flow of drugs into our country. Hancock County, West Virginia Sheriff Ralph Fletcher has made it clear that the spike in heroin overdoses is directly attributable to this poison pouring across our southern border from Mexico.

And as MIKE BURGESS just noted a minute ago, the postal service system needs to be enhancing their monitoring program to halt this importation of fentanyl from China.

But through all this, shouldn't we be exploring the root cause of why people are turning to dangerous drugs? West Virginia, unfortunately, leads the Nation in virtually every statistic when it comes to opioids. Some have attributed it to our State's high unemployment, low household income, and low education levels.

But who is second? Until last year, New Hampshire was second. They have the highest level of employment. They have one of the highest levels of household income and one of the highest levels of degree of household education. So, clearly, it is simply not a socioeconomic issue. Something else is driving this epidemic, and we need to get to the root cause of it. There is plenty of blame to go around, and we need to hold people accountable.

Our committee has been accomplishing this through an investigation of the pill dumping that has occurred in West Virginia. On May 8, as you heard a minute ago, we are going to be holding another hearing with our CEOs from the Nation's largest drug distributors who have been shipping tens of millions of pills into small communities across West Virginia. What we hope to learn is why. Why would you dump millions of pills into small rural communities? Have you no shame?

Look, this is a multifaceted problem. While there is still a lot more work to be done, Congress has been taking a number of steps to eradicate this scourge of the opioid epidemic.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from West Virginia for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, now I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his good work in organizing this Special Order this evening.

The tragic opioid epidemic has, unfortunately, become a major part of our national conversation, and that is what brings us here tonight, to raise awareness and continue our push for bipartisan solutions.

I am grateful for Chairman WALDEN's and Chairman BURGESS' leadership and the work of my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee doing a lot of work to tackle this public health crisis head on.

Too many Americans from all walks of life and from all parts of the country are facing the terrifying realities of the opioid crisis. It is a deeply personal and painful issue for many of our friends and loved ones.

I recently held a number of community forums in my district to collaborate with local leaders and hear from families whose lives had been swept up by the opioid epidemic. At one of those events, I joined with my good friend, a very successful electrical contractor, Mike Hirst, to speak with students at Jackson High School about the dangers of drug addiction.

In 2010, Mike's son, Andy, died of a heroin overdose at the age of 24. This tragic loss has led Mike to dedicate himself to sharing the experience of his son's death and helping educate the community. Mike started a foundation in honor of his son and called it Andy's Angels, where he has counseled addicts, supported families, mentored at-risk youth, and more. People like Mike are making a real difference, and I am committed to ensuring that the Federal Government is a strong partner in this fight.

Thanks to this committee's leadership, we took significant strides last Congress with the 21st Century Cures Act and the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, but we need to redouble our efforts.

One example is Jessie's Law, which is a bipartisan bill I introduced along with my friend and colleague, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL. It is named after Jessie Grubb, who tragically died of an opioid overdose in Michigan in 2016.

Jessie was a recovering addict doing very well, who was unknowingly discharged after a surgery from the hospital with a prescription for oxycodone that ultimately led to her death. It is a heartbreaking and entirely preventable story, and it is why we need to pass Jessie's Law so medical professionals are equipped to safely treat their patients, prevent overdose tragedies, and ultimately save lives.

I am working with Congresswoman DINGELL as well on another bipartisan bill, the Safe Disposal of Unused Medication Act. Our legislation will help prevent the misuse or diversion of unused medications by equipping hospice professionals with the legal authority to safely dispose of unused drugs after a hospice patient's death. Many patients receiving hospice care need painkillers to help with end-of-life pain, but any leftover medications can, unfortunately, end up in the wrong hands, and we need to stop that from happening.

The committee has made addressing the opioid epidemic a top priority, and these are just two of many legislative solutions that we will hear tonight. This is an urgent crisis, and I stand ready to continue working together to advance a bipartisan and comprehensive response, and I thank the leadership for taking this on. There is not a moment to waste.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his participation this evening. He brings some valuable insights, and I am always grateful to hear his perspective from the State of Michigan.

I now go way out West to California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS) for her thoughts on the crisis.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in our effort to raise awareness for the growing opioid epidemic in America, particularly in the State of California.

In 2016, nearly 5,000 Californians died of opioid overdoses. Astonishingly, the year before, 122 million prescription opioid pills were dispensed in Orange County.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow this cycle of opioid abuse and death to continue, which is why Congress must work together to end the epidemic.

I proudly supported recently enacted legislation that provides $4 billion of prevention, treatment, and law enforcement programs that help address this growing crisis.

Ending the opioid epidemic starts at home. On April 28, National Prescription Drug Take Back Day gives Americans the opportunity to safely dispose of their excess prescription drugs, including opioids. This effort can reduce the possibility that these pills will find their way onto our streets.

There is still work to be done, but I am confident that together we can end the opioid crisis in this country.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her participation in this evening's Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my great privilege to yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH), the vice chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations in the Energy and Commerce Committee, certainly one of the most thoughtful Members of this body.

□ 1900

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate all of the work that Chairman BURGESS has done on this issue. It is important that he has highlighted it and made it one of the priorities of our committee—not only our subcommittee, but our full committee.

Earlier this evening, we heard from Representatives from Kentucky and from West Virginia. When you look at the map, you will see that my congressional district, the Ninth District of Virginia, touches West Virginia, touches Kentucky, and touches North Carolina. What this means to all of us is this—and it touches Tennessee, of course. It means that, if you really worked at it, in my district, you could get to various doctors and various pharmacists in just a couple of days.

In that small corner of Virginia, you can travel into other States. You can hit five States in a single day. This is why I have been working on some language for prescription drug monitoring, where the States will be encouraged to work together to try to make sure that we are sharing information. All of the States—or most of the States now—have such a program, but they don't always have the language down the same way.

What we have to do as one of a dozen, two dozen, or three dozen things that we are looking at in trying to help resolve this opioid crisis is that we need to make sure that we have people looking at it and making sure that those folks who are addicted and are trying to get prescriptions from different doctors and using different pharmacies are not able to do so, to make sure that our programs are working together. It is very important that we continue to work.

While I say that it is important, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate so much that Chairman BURGESS is holding a roundtable tomorrow as part of our Health Subcommittee that will be bipartisan, where we are bringing in families from around the country who have suffered a loss, who have a loved one who has died. And while we are not taking any votes on the floor tomorrow, the Health Subcommittee will be meeting because this is just too important to leave Washington without hearing from these important voices, from these people who can bring to us real-life stories.

We have all heard them in our communities. We have all probably had family members who have been touched by it. But to hear from these families tomorrow, I think, is going to be very special and very poignant, and I appreciate it. I think that we all have something that we can learn.

And then, Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about pill dumping, because we do have to take a look. We have a hearing coming up with some of the pharmacies that manufacture these opioids.

But we know that in West Virginia, they were dropping millions of pills into communities there—into Williamson, into Kermit, and into Mount Gay-Shamrock. As a result of that, those drugs not only went into West Virginia, but some of those pharmacies that were shut down eventually by the DEA were just a few miles—32 miles, 34 miles—from my district and from districts in Kentucky.

We need to find out: Why were they allowing this to happen? Why were they perhaps encouraging it to happen? We don't know the answers yet, but we are going to have a hearing on that. The Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee is looking into that matter, as well, and has already got lots of information.

We are looking at what was going on in the DEA and why they didn't use their power of an immediate suspension order. When they had the authority to do so, Mr. Speaker, it was shocking to discover that they chose, instead, to come up with a trial standard.

As opposed to a standard to stop something bad from happening immediately, they chose to have a trial standard, to have all the proof already wrapped up with a nice bow on it. As a part of that, we ended up with a lot of drug stores that continue to use a cash business for operating. Even though the DEA knew there were problems, they wanted to have expert witnesses come in in advance.

This is not acceptable. We are working with the DEA to stop that procedure and to make sure that, if there are any changes in the law that are necessary to give them more tools, they can shut down somebody quickly when they see a pattern of abuse.

Mr. Speaker, the Energy and Commerce Committee is working hard on all of these issues, and, particularly, we are working to make sure that we give the various agencies and the States the authority to help shut down this horrible, treacherous, and dangerous opioid crisis in these United States.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his participation.

As the gentleman was talking about, the fact that in his State and the surrounding States it is possible that, if there is not collaboration between State prescription monitoring programs, a doctor or a pharmacist would never know what other prescriptions might have been written for a patient.

Our committee actually has a history of working on this. Charlie Norwood, a Member of Congress from Georgia, 15 years ago came up with the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act, or NASPER. We have authorized NASPER several times. I am happy to say that, this year, in the omnibus bill, there actually was funding, for the first time, provided for the NASPER program. It is just a beginning.

Clearly, the need for this national reporting program is so critical. In a State like Texas, we are huge, where we don't even think about other States in Texas. But the crossing of State lines with this information can be extremely powerful and, in fact, it can be lifesaving.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for bringing that up, and I thank him for the work that he is doing on the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, and I thank him for the work he is doing on the prevention of pill dumping.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that the opioid crisis is devastating our country and undermining our social structures and eroding our economic productivity is, every day, more and more tragic. But the good news, Mr. Speaker, is the current trends can be reversed. We are building on years of previous bipartisan efforts. We all know that our action is important to the families, to the communities, to our constituents, and to the patients impacted by the opioid epidemic.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

TAX DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAST). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) for 30 minutes.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise, unexpectedly, on tax day. You probably woke up on Monday morning this week thinking Tuesday was going to be tax day, as most of America did, but, lo and behold, when the IRS' payment system crashes, suddenly we are now deeming today tax day rather than yesterday. While it is a surprise to be speaking on tax day, that collapse of the website sort of makes my point.

I want to talk about the great successes that we have had working together, collaboratively, over the last 14 months to move the American Tax Code in the right direction, and then I want to talk about what we can do together to do even more.

You may have seen some of the headlines in the Washington, D.C., tax rags today, Mr. Speaker, folks talking about the House Ways and Means Committee and how we are prepared to begin to do more. The Senate may be a little bit reluctant to do more. At some point, it is going to require an outpouring of public support to do more.

Let me tell you what I mean by ''more.''

When we began the process of tax reform here in the House, Mr. Speaker, we were talking about tax reform first and tax cuts second, reform being that everyone knows that they have to pay taxes. Taxes are certain. But it doesn't have to be complicated. It doesn't have to be an additional burden.

Writing the check is burdensome; figuring out how to calculate how much to write the check for doesn't have to be. But it has grown that way in this country, Mr. Speaker, and we set about trying to change that in the House.

Now, I have a bill in the House called H.R. 25. It is the Fair Tax Act. It would

actually take the American Tax Code and shift it, for the first time in 100 years, away from an income tax-based system and return it to the consumption tax-based system on which this country began.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I don't know if you have looked at the numbers recently. We are the only OECD country that doesn't have a consumption tax.

As you know, the power to tax is a power to destroy. If we want to get rid of something like cigarettes, we tax them in the hopes that there will be less of it.

Well, by the same token, when we tax income, guess what. We send the incentive that there should be less of it. We tax productivity. The harder you work to feed your beautiful family, Mr. Speaker, the more that the American Government takes from you.

You look at these young people coming out of college. They are trying to save for their future. They are trying to pay back those student loans. They are trying to make it all work by themselves for the very first time. The harder they work, the more hours they put in, the more we decide we are going to take right off the top.

It doesn't have to be that way.

Now, the tax cuts that we passed in December, Mr. Speaker, as you know, lower the American tax burden for the first time in a long time. In fact, a poll out recently said that fewer Americans believe they are overtaxed today, matching record low levels.

I think that is a step in the right direction. I think that speaks to kind of the collective sigh of relief that you feel across the country among entrepreneurs and those who want to start their own business and families trying to put food on the table. I am glad that we have that collective sigh of relief, but can we do more?

Today, we were talking about reforming the IRS, Mr. Speaker. I have got a list here—H.R. 5444, H.R. 5445, H.R. 2901, H.R. 5440, H.R. 5438, H.R. 5446, H.R. 5437, H.R. 5439, H.R. 5443—all bills that this House has considered this week designed to make the IRS serve the American taxpayer better. That is a long list of bills, Mr. Speaker, and that is worth celebrating. We took a big step this week in trying to make the IRS more responsive to the American people.

Not to be a pessimist, Mr. Speaker, but when you have to share with this agency every penny you earn, everyplace that you earned it, share with them how you spent it, the places that you gave it, when you gave it, sometimes why you gave it, what you purchased with it, right on down the line, Mr. Speaker, I would argue that your wife may know less about your family finances than the IRS does. If not in your family, certainly in many families, we tell the IRS things we would not tell members of our family.

We place an incredible amount of power and responsibility in the IRS' hands. And I want to be clear: This isn't an IRS institutional problem. The IRS didn't ask for this authority. This is a 435–Members-of-the-U.S.-House problem. We put this authority in the IRS' hands. We gave them an untenable task of wielding this power without abuse. That is why you have almost a dozen bills, Mr. Speaker, today to reform them.

Making those reforms is important, but is there a better way? Do we have to have the IRS involved in every aspect of our financial life? I am here to tell you that the answer is no.

H.R. 25, the Fair Tax Act, Mr. Speaker, moves us to a consumption tax, which says that we are going to tax you based on what you spend, not on what you earn. So I no longer need to tell the IRS what I earned, where I earned it, and how I spent it.

When I get taxed on what I spend, I am not sending that information to the IRS. I am getting taxed while I am at the store. I am getting taxed at Home Depot. I am getting taxed at Kroger. I am getting taxed at Publix. I am getting taxed at Macy's. I am getting taxed on amazon.com.

When we tax based on what people consume instead of what they earn, we end that disincentive to earn, and we begin to ask that people ask more serious questions about what they purchase.

Mr. Speaker, today, as American workers are going off to produce high-quality American goods, they are doing so at a disadvantage. Most nations, as I mentioned earlier, have a consumption tax, which means that, when the Germans produce an automobile and they send it to America, they have a consumption tax—a value added tax, in their case—that had been taxed on that car that had been sold in Germany. Since they are shipping it to America, they remove that tax and send that car to America tax free. We pay taxes on it when we purchase it.

Not so when the American car goes to Germany. The big BMW plant in South Carolina producing BMWs, when that car is produced, all of the embedded taxation of the corporate taxes BMW is paying and the payroll taxes BMW workers are paying, all of those taxes are built into the price of that BMW. When we ship it out for sale to the rest of the world, the price of that car is higher because Americans built it.

That is just nonsense.

□ 1915

Why in the world have we chosen to disadvantage ourselves relative to the rest of the world?

Well, when you choose to have an income tax and when you choose to have a payroll tax, you then choose to bury those costs in the price of your goods and services. It is a competitive disadvantage of America.

I mentioned payroll taxes, Mr. Speaker. You may not know, but payroll taxes are the largest tax that 85 percent of American families pay. Let me say that again.

We just had this whole long debate over reforming the income tax system, and it was an important debate to have. We had this whole debate about how it is we can provide more money in workers' paychecks by changes to the income tax system. It was an important debate to have. But 85 percent of American families pay more in payroll taxes—that FICA tax you see, it is 15.3 percent of everything that you earn—pay more in payroll taxes than they do in income taxes.

So the time is going to come that we are going to have to gather here, Mr. Speaker, in this Chamber to have a debate about how we reform the payroll tax system.

The payroll tax system is very important. It funds Social Security and Medicare. We want those programs to be successful. We know that as we sit here today, the revenue streams are not sufficient to make those programs successful. So if you believe in those programs, we need to have those conversations today about the Fair Tax, Mr. Speaker, the only tax bill in Congress that examines the payroll tax as the lead reform mechanism of tax reform.

We went in and we changed the corporate tax system in the tax cuts bill last year, Mr. Speaker, and we did a good job there. We took it from being the absolute worst Tax Code on the planet in terms of competitiveness and we moved America to about the top five. That is good news. Not worst to first, but worst to top five. I will take it.

When Ronald Reagan and the Democrats did tax reform back in 1986, they then moved America from worst to first. In the intervening 30 years, the rest of the world caught up with America, surpassed America, moved us back into last place. We moved ourselves last December into the top five.

My question is, Mr. Speaker, when did it become an American value, when did American exceptionalism begin to be defined by being in the top five, one of the folks out in front?

My definition of American exceptionalism is being number one, being the very best, setting the standard, letting the rest of the world follow.

The Fair Tax encompasses that by recognizing that businesses don't pay taxes. They just collect taxes. They collect them from their employees in the form of lower wages, they collect them from their customers in the form of higher prices, they collect them from the owners of capital in the form of lower returns to pension plans for American retirees, but businesses don't pay taxes. There is no secret drawer that a business dips into to pay its tax bill. It is lower wages, higher prices, or lower rates of return.

Well, recognizing this, and we did a lot of recognizing of that during this tax reform debate, we have now lowered the corporate tax rate to the lowest rate in my lifetime.

The question is, now that we are seeing the benefits of that, we are seeing money plowed back into workers' paychecks, we are seeing wages rise—and we are not having the discussion of minimum wage here anymore, Mr. Speaker, because businesses across the country can't find enough employees, they are raising wages on their own, they are putting bonuses out there on their own. Those businesses have more money in their pockets and they are putting it in the pockets of their employees.

There is not a business in your district, Mr. Speaker, that doesn't recognize the most important asset that business has is a motivated and loyal workforce. Employees are the most valuable asset that a business has. Those employees are rewarded when the business succeeds.

Why is it that now that we are seeing that, now that we are recognizing that, we see the reality that when you put more money back in the business, that business puts more money back in a paycheck, why don't we go the rest of the way? Why don't we move America back from worst to first one more time, abolish that corporate income tax, recognize that businesses don't pay taxes, they just collect them from their employees?

That reduction of corporate income taxes so far, Mr. Speaker, has led to bonuses for more than 4 million American workers, wages rising across the board at the highest level in years, unemployment at a sustained level lower than ever before recorded.

Mr. Speaker, the Tax Code is one of those things that people can use to pick winners and losers, and an income Tax Code particularly lends itself to pick winners and losers.

The Fair Tax says let's not pick winners and losers; let's have one rate that everybody pays on everything that they buy. Let's recognize that consumption is a better form of taxation than income is, again, as the only OECD country that does not have a consumption tax, and let us recognize that there is even more economic growth that we can squeeze out of the American economy today.

You have seen the capital investment that comes from the immediate expensing that was included in the last tax bill, Mr. Speaker. Well, immediate expensing is the same as not taxing that investment at all. It is what I am saying. Instead of just being for some purchases, for some investments, it would be for all purchases, for all investments.

We gave businesses that benefit in December. Four million workers and counting have received bonuses, wages rising faster than they have in years.

What about repatriated earnings, Mr. Speaker? How are we advantaged as a Nation by trapping earnings overseas?

If a company can't bring its earnings back to America to invest in America, what is it going to do? If those earnings are trapped overseas, they are going to get invested overseas, they are going to build that next plant overseas, they are going to make that next purchase overseas. How in the world are we advantaged as a Nation by trapping earnings overseas?

Well, we recognized that we are not. We recognized that by lowering the repatriation rate, we have brought back trillions of dollars. That return to America is continuing, but we can do more. That corporate rate going to zero does more.

The Tax Code is the only regulatory action we take, Mr. Speaker, that disadvantages America relative to the rest of the world for no benefit whatsoever.

Let us concede that we have bills to pay as a Nation and we are going to raise the revenue to pay those bills.

Now, having conceded that we are going to raise the revenue to pay those bills, let's raise that revenue in the simplest, least economically destructive way possible: a consumption tax. Milton Friedman would tell it. If you don't believe Nobel laureate economists, you can look at State experiments across the country. If you don't believe those State experiments, you can look at changing tax codes in our neighboring countries around the world, our allies around the world.

We have a choice in how we collect revenue, and H.R. 25, the Fair Tax Act, is the most comprehensive recognition that we can do away with the income tax, we can repeal the 16th Amendment that even made the income tax possible in this country. We can return to a consumption tax so that we all have skin in the game in how this government is run and operated. We can ensure the solvency of Social Security and Medicare by changing the way we collect the revenue stream for those programs.

We can put more money in workers' pockets by eliminating the largest tax that 85 percent of American families pay in eliminating that FICA tax. We can put America back on top economically, as we tried to do in 1986, as we saw happen during the 1990s as a result of those Tax Code changes, and we can return America to being an exporter to the world, not just an importer from the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to have that debate. If someone believes that disadvantaging the American worker is valuable in some way, let's talk about it. If someone sees a hidden benefit to making it harder for the rest of the world to buy American goods, let's talk about it and let me understand those benefits with you.

But if you share my vision of American exceptionalism, that being in the top five isn't good enough, that being number one, being the leader, being the definer of success is the only thing that is going to be good enough for the families that each and every one of us represent, then go back and look at H.R. 25 one more time.

I understand, having just passed tax reform, the largest tax reform in a generation, folks wonder if we are able to do even more. We can.

I understand that having this tax day to be the very last tax day that any American family has to deal with the old, complicated code, folks wonder, can we do even better for next tax year. We have already done better for next tax year, Mr. Speaker, but we can do even more.

Take a look at the Fair Tax. Dozens upon dozens of your colleagues have already recognized its merits. Dozens upon dozens of your colleagues have already recognized our opportunity to stop fighting the economic battle with one arm tied behind the American worker's back.

I celebrate the success that we achieved together, Mr. Speaker. I celebrate the coming together in the name of making a better economy possible for American workers and their families. Let's take that success and let's build on that success, and let's not have this be the last tax day that we celebrate.

Let's celebrate today that we will never have to deal with the old Tax Code again, and let's anticipate that day where we will never even have tax day again, because in the absence of an income tax, the American family need never deal with the IRS again.

Let's eliminate April 15 as tax day. Let's make it just another beautiful spring day. Let's relieve the American family of the burden of complying with the Tax Code. Let's free the American family and American businesses to do what is in their own family's and their own business' best interest.

Make tax day just another day, Mr. Speaker. Support the Fair Tax.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1281. An act to establish a bug bounty pilot program within the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 167. An act to designate a National Memorial to Fallen Educators at the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 19, 2018, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4588. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Lemons From Chile Into the Continental United States [Docket No.: APHIS-2015-0051] (RIN: 0579-AE20) received April 9, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4589. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the Office's Final Sequestration Report to the President and Congress for Fiscal Year 2018, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 904(f)(1); Public Law 99-177, Sec. 254 (as amended by Public Law 112-25, Sec. 103); (125 Stat. 246); to the Committee on Appropriations.

4590. A letter from the Director, Defense Pricing/Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Temporary Extension of Test Program for Comprehensive Small Business Subcontracting Plans (DFARS Case 2015-D013) [Docket No.: DARS-2016-0027] (RIN: 0750-AJ00) received April 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4591. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Christopher F. Burne, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4592. A letter from the Director, Defense Pricing/Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Competition for Religious-Related Services Contracts (DFARS Case 2016-D015) [Docket No.: DARS-2016-0034] (RIN: 0750-AJ06) received April 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4593. A letter from the Director, Defense Pricing/Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Consolidation of Contract Requirements (DFARS Case 2017-D004) [Docket No.: DARS-2018-0014] (RIN: 0750-AJ43) received April 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4594. A letter from the Director, Defense Pricing/Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Educational Service Agreements (DFARS Case 2017-D039) [Docket No.: DARS-2018-0013] (RIN: 0750-AJ49) received April 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4595. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Iowa, Hancock County, City of Corwith, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2018-0002; Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8523] received April 5, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4596. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (DeSoto County, MS, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2018-0002; Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8519] received March 28, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4597. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility (Cameron County, TX, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2018-0002] [Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8517] received March 28, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4598. A letter from the Director, Defense Pricing/Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Definition of ''Information Technology'' (DFARS Case 2017-D033) [Docket No.: DARS-2018-0013] (RIN: 0750-AJ39) received April 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4599. A letter from the Director, Defense Pricing/Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Safe Access to Projects in Afghanistan (DFARS Case 2017-D032) [Docket No.: DARS-2018-D007] (RIN: 0750-AJ38) received April 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

4600. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — New Source Performance Standards and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to New Mexico [EPA-R06-OAR-2016-0091; FRL-9975-94-Region 6] received April 9, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4601. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Alaska: Regional Haze Progress Report [EPA-R10-OAR-2016-0749; FRL-9976-71-Region 10] received April 9, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4602. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Missouri; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference; Correcting Amendments [EPA-R07-OAR-2015-0105; FRL-9976-48-Region 7] received April 9, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4603. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Legal and Policy, Auctions and Spectrum and Access Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Procedures for the Mobility Fund Phase II Challenge Process [WT Docket No.: 10-90] [WT Docket No.: 10-208] received April 9, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4604. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment to Parts 1, 2, 22, 24, 27, 90 and 95 of the Commission's Rules to Improve Wireless Coverage Through the Use of Signal Boosters [WT Docket No.: 10-4] received April 9, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4605. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Connect America Fund [WC Docket No.: 10-90]; ETC Annual Reports and Certifications [WC Docket No.: 14-58]; Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers [WC Docket No.: 07-135]; Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime [CC Docket No.: 01-92] received April 5, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4606. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 17-087, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4607. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 17-080, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4608. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 17-088, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4609. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 17-009, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4610. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 16-081, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4611. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State,

transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 17-054, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4612. A letter from the Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — North Korea Sanctions Regulations received February 28, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

4613. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2018-2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 306(a); Public Law 103-62, Sec. 3(a) (as amended by Public Law 111-352, Sec. 2); (124 Stat. 3866); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4614. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of Inspector General, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Streamlining the Office of Inspector General's Freedom of Information Act Regulations and Implementing the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016 [Docket No.: FR-6048-F-01] received February 28, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4615. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2017 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4616. A letter from the Vice Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2017 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4617. A letter from the Chairman, United States International Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's FY 2017 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

4618. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer/Regulatory Specialist, Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Repeal of Regulatory Amendment and Restoration of Former Regulatory Language Governing Service of Official Correspondence [Docket No.: ONRR-2016-0003; DS63644000 DR2PS0000.CH7000 178D0102R2] (RIN: 1012-AA22) received April 9, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

4619. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension of Port Limits of Savannah, GA [Docket No.: USCBP-2017-0017] (CBP Dec. 18-03) received April 5, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4620. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Request for Comments on Scope of Determination Letter Program for Individually Designed Plans During Calendar Year 2019 [Notice 2018-24] received April 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4621. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Determination of Housing Cost Amounts Eligible for Exclusion or Deduction for 2018 [Notice 2018-33] received April 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4622. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Section 911(d)(4) -2017 Update (Rev. Proc. 2018-23) received April 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4623. A letter from the Chief, Border Security Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Definition of Importer Security Filing Importer [USCBP-2016-0040] (RIN: 1651-AA98) received April 10, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. ROYCE of California: Committee on Foreign Affairs. H.R. 4744. A bill to impose additional sanctions with respect to serious human rights abuses of the Government of Iran, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 115–642, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3144. A bill to provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes (Rept. 115–643, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3144 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary, Financial Services, and Ways and Means discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4744 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 5545. A bill to provide emergency assistance to States, territories, Tribal nations, and local areas affected by the opioid epidemic and to make financial assistance available to States, territories, Tribal nations, local areas, and public or private nonprofit entities to provide for the development, organization, coordination, and operation of more effective and cost efficient systems for the delivery of essential services to individuals with substance use disorder and their families; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KNIGHT:

H.R. 5546. A bill to authorize the use of certain Department of Defense funds for combating opioid trafficking and abuse in the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 5547. A bill to amend the Violence Against Women Act of 2000 to reauthorize the grant program for education, training, and enhanced services to end violence against and abuse of women with disabilities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 5548. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study on the presence of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in sources of drinking water; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 5549. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 5550. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase the maximum Federal Pell Grant amount, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. COHEN, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HECK, Mr. HIMES, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California):

H.R. 5551. A bill to direct the Attorney General to submit to Congress investigative materials in the event of certain pardons granted by the President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 5552. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to reinstate information about climate change that was removed from, or redacted on, the Agency's website, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BACON (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

H.R. 5553. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to take certain steps to improve the Transition Assistance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 5554. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize user fee programs relating to new animal drugs and generic new animal drugs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California:

H.R. 5555. A bill to make necessary reforms to improve compliance with loss mitigation requirements by servicers of mortgages for single family housing insured by the FHA and to prevent foreclosures on FHA borrowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BRAT, Mr. BUCK, Mr. BUDD, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. JONES, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. YOHO):

H.R. 5556. A bill to provide for transparency and reporting related to direct and indirect costs incurred by the Bonneville Power Administration, the Western Area Power Administration, the Southwestern Power Administration, and the Southeastern Power Administration related to compliance with any Federal environmental laws impacting the conservation of fish and wildlife, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 5557. A bill to amend the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 to authorize the Attorney General, in coordination with the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, to award grants to covered entities to establish or maintain disposal sites for unwanted prescription medications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. HASTINGS):

H.R. 5558. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out under the Medicare program an alternatives to opioids in emergency departments demonstration project; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 5559. A bill to transfer functions related to the preparation of flood maps from the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to the Director of the United States Geological Survey, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 5560. A bill to amend the consumer product safety laws to repeal of exclusion of pistols, revolvers, and other firearms from the definition of consumer product under such laws; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GARRETT:

H.R. 5561. A bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Barbara Rose Johns in recognition of her achievements and contributions to the Nation and civil rights; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia:

H.R. 5562. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a strategy implementing certain recommendations relating to the Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. LEE, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

H.R. 5563. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to revise the food insecurity nutrition incentive; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI (for himself, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. MOORE, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. SWALWELL of California):

H.R. 5564. A bill to amend title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education that participate in programs under such title to distribute voter registration forms to students enrolled at the institution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE, Ms. LEE, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. COOPER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. BASS, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts):

H.R. 5565. A bill to require a study of Federal agencies to determine which Federal agencies have the greatest impact on women's participation in the workforce; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 5566. A bill to establish a technology-based job training and education program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico (for himself, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. DESJARLAIS):

H.R. 5567. A bill to enable projects that will aid in the development and delivery of related instruction associated with apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs that are focused on serving the skilled technical workforce at DOE National Laboratories and certain facilities of the National Nuclear Security Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Mr. GUTHRIE):

H.R. 5568. A bill to amend the 21st Century Cures Act to provide for designation of institutions of higher education that provide research, data, and leadership on continuous manufacturing as National Centers of Excellence in Continuous Pharmaceutical Manufacturing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Mr. CULBERSON, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER):

H.R. 5569. A bill to establish a pilot program to enhance the mapping of urban flooding and associated property damage and the availability of such mapped data to homeowners, businesses, and localities to help understand and mitigate the risk of such flooding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.R. 5570. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize certain grantees to contract with or make subawards to local or regional organizations that are private and nonprofit, and that may be faith-based, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. SANFORD, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. KNIGHT):

H.R. 5571. A bill to amend subchapter III of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to repeal increases in duty and a tariff-rate quota on certain crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SANFORD (for himself, Mr. PALMER, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. JONES, Mr. MASSIE, and Mr. GAETZ):

H.R. 5572. A bill to prevent a fiscal crisis by enacting legislation to balance the Federal budget through reductions of discretionary and mandatory spending; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 5573. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to expand and clarify the prohibition on inaccurate caller identification information and to require providers of telephone service to offer technology to subscribers to reduce the incidence of unwanted telephone calls and text messages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TAYLOR (for himself, Mr. CORREA, Mr. GAETZ, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. MAST, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. MOOLENAAR):

H.R. 5574. A bill to prohibit the use of funds appropriated or otherwise available to Department of Homeland Security frontline operational components for the procurement of certain items that do not meet specified criteria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. TAYLOR (for himself and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 5575. A bill to improve the treatment of Federal prisoners who are primary caretaker parents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. ROYCE of California, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas):

H.R. 5576. A bill to address state-sponsored cyber activities against the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. CLARKE of New

York, Mr. RUSH, Mr. TONKO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BEYER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. PETERS, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. POCAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. CRIST, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. LEE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HECK, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. KIHUEN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. SOTO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ELLISON, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. HANABUSA, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. POLIS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. BASS, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. EVANS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. TITUS, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WALZ, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Ms. ROSEN):

H. Res. 834. A resolution expressing no confidence in the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and calling for the immediate resignation of the Administrator; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Agriculture, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. FOXX (for herself, Mr. SIRES, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mrs. LOWEY):

H. Res. 835. A resolution supporting robust relations with the State of Israel bilaterally and in multilateral fora upon seventy years of statehood, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

178. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Wyoming, relative to Original Senate Joint Resolution 2, Senate Enrolled Joint Resolution 1, commemorating the sesquicentennial of the signing of the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

179. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Wyoming, relative to Original House Joint Resolution 8, House Enrolled Joint Resolution 3, commemorating the sesquicentennial of the signing of the 1868 Treaty of Fort Bridger; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

180. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Missouri, relative to House Resolution No. 5213, urging the Secretary of Transportation to immediately suspend the final rule requiring an electronic logging device for trucks and specified commercial vehicles for all persons and companies nationwide; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

181. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Wyoming, relative to Original House Joint Resolution 2, House Enrolled Joint Resolution 1, requesting Congress to enact legislation permitting western states to enter into a voluntary compact to establish a graduated commercial driver licensing program that would allow commercial drivers between eighteen (18) and twenty-one (21) years of age to operate a commercial motor vehicle in a consenting, contiguous state; jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 5545.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To . . . provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States

By Mr. KNIGHT:

H.R. 5546.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 5547.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 5548.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 5549.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 5550.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 5551.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Abuse of Pardon Prevention Act is constitutionally authorized under and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, the Necessary and Proper Clause.

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 5552.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 5553.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution: ''Congress shall have power to . . . make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.''

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 5554.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California:

H.R. 5555.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 5 and Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 5556.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3. (Commerce Clause) The Commerce Clause give Congress the power to ''regulate commerce . . . among the several States.'' If the matter in question is not purely a local matter or if it has an impact on inter-state commerce, then it falls within Congress' powers. National Federal of Independent Business v. Sebilius. (2012).

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 5557.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 5558.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress's specified powers are primarily, but not exclusively, found in Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution. This section contains 18 clauses, 17 of which enumerate relatively specific powers granted to the Congress. Among the powers enumerated are Congress's powers to regulate commerce.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 5559.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The enumerated powers listed in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 5560.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

By Mr. GARRETT:

H.R. 5561.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia:
H.R. 5562.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. KILDEE:
H.R. 5563.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI:
H.R. 5564.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18, of the US Constitution.
By Mrs. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 5565.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 18: allows Congress to make all laws ''which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution'' any ''other'' powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States.
The Supreme Court has held that the power to conduct oversight is implied from the general vesting of legislative powers in Congress.
By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:
H.R. 5566.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America
By Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico:
H.R. 5567.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America
By Mr. PALLONE:
H.R. 5568.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution. That provision gives Congress the power ''to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''
By Mr. QUIGLEY:
H.R. 5569.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:
H.R. 5570.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:
''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''
By Ms. ROSEN:
H.R. 5571.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution
By Mr. SANFORD:
H.R. 5572.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.
By Ms. SPEIER:
H.R. 5573.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. TAYLOR:
H.R. 5574.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
To borrow money on the credit of the United States;
To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;
To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;
To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;
To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;
To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;
To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;
To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court; and Offenses against the Law of Nations;
To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;
To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;
To provide and maintain a Navy;
To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;
To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;
To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;
To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mr. TAYLOR:
H.R. 5575.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
To borrow money on the credit of the United States;
To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;
To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;
To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;
To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;
To establish Post Offices and Post Roads;
To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;
To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court; and Offenses against the Law of Nations;
To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;
To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;
To provide and maintain a Navy;
To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;
To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;
To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;
To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings; And
To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mr. YOHO:
H.R. 5576.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 35: Mr. JORDAN.
H.R. 141: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 159: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 173: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.
H.R. 459: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 466: Mr. BOST.
H.R. 592: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 669: Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 681: Mr. GALLAGHER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. LOVE, and Mr. WALKER.
H.R. 712: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 741: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 787: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 930: Mr. BACON, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. TIPTON, and Ms. BASS.
H.R. 959: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 1027: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1102: Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 1173: Mr. WALZ, Mr. RUSH, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H.R. 1251: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 1270: Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 1291: Mrs. TORRES and Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 1318: Mr. FORTENBERRY.
H.R. 1377: Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H.R. 1445: Mr. WITTMAN and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 1494: Mr. KNIGHT.
H.R. 1683: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. BERA, and Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 1697: Mr. GIANFORTE.
H.R. 1881: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 1911: Ms. GRANGER.
H.R. 1928: Mr. DELANEY.
H.R. 1949: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 1955: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 1957: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2106: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 2141: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 2267: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 2310: Mr. WALKER.
H.R. 2315: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 2317: Mr. KIND, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. VISCLOSKY, and Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 2358: Mr. OLSON and Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 2477: Mr. MCEACHIN.
H.R. 2687: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2712: Mr. LANCE.
H.R. 2856: Mr. JORDAN.
H.R. 2913: Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 2917: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 3030: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. ROSS, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. STEWART, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 3075: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3181: Mr. CURBELO of Florida.
H.R. 3186: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 3207: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CORREA, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 3330: Mr. RATCLIFFE.
H.R. 3429: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 3635: Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 3642: Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 3733: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 3780: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 3798: Mr. BOST, Mr. BUCK, and Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 3832: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 3855: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 3861: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 3931: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 3939: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3956: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 3976: Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. POLIQUIN, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.
H.R. 4005: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 4022: Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. ESTES of Kansas, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. LAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 4023: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 4030: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 4044: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 4207: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 4223: Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 4260: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 4265: Mr. PERRY and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 4275: Mr. GIANFORTE.
H.R. 4320: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 4321: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 4334: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 4340: Mrs. BLACK.
H.R. 4429: Mr. HILL.
H.R. 4638: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mrs. TORRES.
H.R. 4639: Mrs. MURPHY of Florida and Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 4681: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 4692: Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 4706: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 4720: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 4732: Mr. KATKO, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 4775: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 4808: Mrs. TORRES.
H.R. 4841: Mr. BISHOP of Michigan.
H.R. 4846: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 4886: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 4903: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 4944: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 4953: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. VELA, and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 4954: Mr. HECK and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 4997: Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 4999: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 5038: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 5049: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 5102: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 5121: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 5129: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 5141: Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. KIND, Mr. OLSON, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. ROSS, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. KATKO, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. LAWSON of Florida.
H.R. 5150: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 5191: Mr. PAULSEN.
H.R. 5193: Mr. KIND and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H.R. 5199: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 5220: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 5226: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 5248: Mr. LOBIONDO and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 5306: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. HECK.
H.R. 5339: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 5345: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 5353: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 5356: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 5358: Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. BLUM.
H.R. 5359: Mr. CORREA, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 5369: Mr. SANFORD.
H.R. 5374: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CLAY, Mr. WALZ, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 5385: Mr. CURTIS, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 5410: Ms. NORTON and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5435: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 5459: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 5465: Mrs. COMSTOCK and Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.
H.R. 5467: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 5505: Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LANCE, Mr. HIMES, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 5520: Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. SWALWELL of California, and Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 5536: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. KIHUEN.
H.R. 5537: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.J. Res. 33: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.J. Res. 132: Mrs. COMSTOCK and Mr. ESTES of Kansas.
H. Con. Res. 13: Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia.
H. Con. Res. 117: Mr. CORREA and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H. Res. 274: Ms. NORTON, Mrs. COMSTOCK, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H. Res. 307: Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia.
H. Res. 401: Mr. O'ROURKE and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H. Res. 718: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H. Res. 763: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H. Res. 774: Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BERA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT Rochester, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HECK, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KIHUEN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIND, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. POLIS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. WALZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SABLAN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H. Res. 781: Ms. NORTON.
H. Res. 785: Mr. HARRIS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. BABIN, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, Mr.

STEWART, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. FLORES, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.

H. Res. 789: Ms. BASS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. COLE, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. WALKER, and Mr. SMUCKER.

H. Res. 806: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H. Res. 818: Ms. BASS, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. PLASKETT, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H. Res. 821: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Ms. BORDALLO.

H. Res. 827: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H. Res. 829: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. TITUS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. PAULSEN, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. COSTA, and Ms. ROSEN.

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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, source of the light that never dims, empower us to glorify Your Name. Forgive us when we cast away our confidence in You. Lord, thank You for Your infinite goodness that directs our hearts to seek Your wisdom, power, and love.

Remember our lawmakers. Give them a faith that can overcome obstacles, challenges, and setbacks. Fill each of us with the joy and peace that comes from believing in You.

And, Lord, we thank You for the gift of Barbara Bush, as we praise You for her life and legacy.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF A RULE SUBMITTED BY BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S.J. Res. 57, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 57) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to ''Indirect Auto Lending and Compliance with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12 noon will be equally divided between the managers or their designees.

If no one yields time, the time will be charged equally.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING BARBARA BUSH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate pays tribute this morning to a beloved American who passed away yesterday.

To our 41st President, her lucky husband, Barbara Pierce Bush was a beloved wife and partner for more than seven decades. To the American people, whom she lovingly served as an exemplary First Lady, she was one of the most respected and well-liked public figures of her generation. And to the 5 children, 17 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all the family Barbara Bush leaves behind at the age of 92, she was a beloved matriarch. By all accounts, she was equally capable of building up those she loved most and poking fun at them when they deserved it. Put simply, Barbara was a founding partner of the most influential political family of our era.

The epic love story of George Bush and Barbara Pierce began at a Christmas dance in 1941. The intimacy of wartime love letters beat back the vastness of oceans, and they married just weeks after George returned from the Pacific.

George once wrote that his beloved wife has ''given me joy that few men know.'' Barbara put it this way just a few weeks before her passing: ''I am still old, and still in love.'' The love story grew and grew. Eventually, it incorporated the entire Nation.

Barbara embraced the mantle of ''America's grandmother.'' The self-deprecating humor in that title was classic Barbara, but her plainspoken humility concealed formidable strengths and talents. Even under all the bright lights and the pressures of public scrutiny, she always combined wit with warmth, smarts with common sense, and great toughness with greater compassion. The beneficiaries of these qualities were many. The cause of literacy, in particular, bids farewell to a devoted champion, but above all, Barbara's life was defined by love. She loved her husband and her family. She loved her country, and America loved her back.

Today, the Senate stands united, as does the Nation, with the Bush family and their great many friends. We join them in mourning their loss and in prayer.

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT RESOLUTION

Mr. President, later today, the Senate will vote on rolling back another piece of Obama-era overreach. Just like the historic 15 times we have already used the Congressional Review Act, the goal here is simple: We want to protect consumers and job creators from needless interference by the Federal bureaucracy. Today, thanks to Senators MORAN and TOOMEY, we can make it 16. We can nullify a particularly egregious overstep by President Obama's Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and notch another victory in this Congress's record of rolling back overregulation.

NOMINATION OF CARLOS MUNIZ

Mr. President, we will also vote to confirm President Trump's choice to serve as general counsel at the Department of Education, Carlos Muniz. This qualified nominee has been waiting for his confirmation vote since October. I would urge everyone to join me in voting to confirm him.

● This ''bullet'' symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. President, we will also vote today to advance the Coast Guard Authorization Act. This is an important step for brave men and women whose work often flies under the radar. Today, as ever, the United States calls on our Coast Guard to carry out critical safety and security missions with little room for error. Just last year, Coast Guard personnel stopped over $7 billion in illegal drugs and contraband from crossing our borders. They guarded and maintained shipping lanes, and they risked their lives to lead heroic rescues after Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

In addition to authorizing funding for the Coast Guard, this legislation includes a bipartisan measure that is particularly important to States with navigable inland waterways, such as Kentucky, Mississippi, Alaska, and others. I am very proud to have worked with Senators WICKER, SULLIVAN, THUNE, and RUBIO to make sure this provision was included. In Kentucky, 1,900 miles of navigable waterways are used to ship everything from agriculture to coal. They support 13,000 maritime jobs, and those jobs support countless others throughout America—moving food from the fields, energy to homes and businesses, and exports to market.

Our vessel owners and operators have been saddled with uncertainty. They have faced a patchwork of overlapping, duplicative regulations enforced by the Coast Guard, the EPA, and the States. This inefficient regulatory regime unnecessarily raises costs and jeopardizes jobs.

Our provision, the Commercial Vessel Incidental Discharge Act, would clean up that mess and make life easier for American mariners and vessel operators, while still protecting our environment. It would give them regulatory certainty and a single, uniform, cost-effective standard enforced by the Coast Guard. This predictable structure will protect our natural resources, while ensuring that commerce can flow freely to market.

This provision commands broad bipartisan support. It has been reported favorably out of the Commerce Committee six times during the last three Congresses, including when my Democratic colleagues controlled the committee.

I am glad that this year we have the opportunity to reauthorize funding for our Coast Guard and deliver this key victory at the same time.

TAX REFORM

Mr. President, on another matter, I noticed that a number of my Democratic colleagues attended a small protest rally yesterday. It was right here on the Capitol grounds. Apparently, it was put out by a number of leftwing pressure groups, including moveon.org, Planned Parenthood, and Big Labor.

What were they protesting out there? What outrage brought leading Democrats to join this protest on the east front of the Capitol? It turns out it was the fact that Republicans let middle-class families and American small businesses keep more of their own money. That is right. The Democrats are rallying to repeal the tax cuts. Never mind that our own pro-growth tax reform has led to thousand-dollar bonuses, pay raises, educational opportunities, or other new benefits for literally millions of Americans. Democrats still want to repeal it. Never mind the new estimate that says tax reform will yield more than 1 million new jobs in the next decade or the fact that jobless claims are at their lowest levels since—listen to this—1973.

No amount of good news will shake Democrats' confidence that they know how to spend the American people's money better than the American people themselves. My friend the Democratic leader said so right here on the floor a few weeks ago. This is exactly what he said: ''There are much better uses for the money.'' Really? On average, a family of four earning a median income will save about $2,000 on their taxes. I don't think a middle-class family will have difficulty finding good ways to use $2,000. They certainly don't need a bureaucrat to do it for them. Maybe they need a new washer and dryer or a new refrigerator. Maybe it will help them make the downpayment on a second car. Maybe they will use it to keep up with rising health costs since ObamaCare has utterly failed to keep costs down for American families. Whatever they choose, I am glad Republican tax reform is letting hard-working parents keep more of their own money.

But my Democratic colleagues obviously disagree. They are rallying to take back—to take back—that family's money so they can spend it themselves. They are so out of touch that they scoff at $2,000 tax cuts, thousand-dollar bonuses, and permanent wages increases for hourly workers. They call them ''crumbs''—''crumbs.'' To be fair, in the wealthiest parts of San Francisco or New York, maybe $1,000 does look like a rounding error. We know those are the places our Democratic colleagues are literally focused on. When President Obama was in power, Democratic policies fueled an incredibly uneven economic recovery. By one estimate, the biggest, richest urban areas captured 73 percent of all job gains.

Meanwhile, millions of Americans in smaller cities, small towns, and rural areas saw little or no progress. Believe me, after years of being left behind by Democratic policies, the middle-class Kentuckians I represent and hard-working Americans all over the country do not see a $1,000 bonus or a $2,000 tax cut as ''crumbs.''

Democrats protest America's tax cuts, bonuses, and new jobs. They can protest it all they want to, but Republicans will keep defending middle-class families.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I want to briefly address an issue that has been raised in the context of the vote we will have later today. As you know, later today we will be using the Congressional Review Act to repeal a very ill-conceived regulation imposed by the CFPB. Some of our colleagues and some outside this Chamber have suggested that it is somehow problematic to use the Congressional Review Act—to use this device—for the repeal of a regulation that is promulgated by guidance as opposed to those regulations promulgated in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, which we usually refer to as a rule, or a rulemaking.

The reality is that the applicability of the Congressional Review Act to a guidance, in my view, is very obvious and very well-established and should not be controversial. I understand that people might like the CFPB's rule, which I don't, but to suggest that because they issued it through a guidance rather than through the appropriate rulemaking process, we shouldn't be using the Congressional Review Act, I think, is completely mistaken.

First of all, there is the CRA's definition of a rule. It is very broad and intentionally so. I will quote in part that definition. It says: ''The whole or a part of an agency statement of general or particular applicability.''

The text says nothing about limiting the Congressional Review Act procedural device to formal rulemakings that follow from the Administrative Procedure Act. It is much broader than that. Instead it says: ''The whole or a part of an agency statement.''

You don't have to just take my word for this. You could go back to the statements of the authors of the Congressional Review Act itself, the legislation that makes this vote today possible. One of the authors was none other than Harry Reid, the former Senate majority leader and Senate minority leader. Senator Reid was very clear about the intention. He and Senator Nickles, at the time, and Senator Stevens put out a joint statement, which I will quote. It is brief, but it is important. It says:

> The authors are concerned that some agencies have attempted to circumvent notice-and-comment requirements by trying to give legal effect to general statements of policy, ''guidelines,'' and agency policy and procedure manuals. The authors admonish the agencies that the APA's broad definition of ''rule'' was adopted by the authors of this legislation [the CRA] to discourage circumvention of the requirements of [the] chapter.

Here is the irony implied by the position of those who suggest we can't use the Congressional Review Act to repeal a guidance. What they really are suggesting is that the regulators and the agencies ought to be able to circumvent the very public process that is established in law—the Administrative Procedure Act—for rulemaking. They ought to be able to avoid the need to collaborate with other regulators to

issue a proposed rule to the public for an extensive comment period and to make it subject to scrutiny—all of the things we demand of a proper rulemaking so that we end up with a better rule—right?—one that has been vetted, one that has been fully considered.

What you are saying is that the CRA is not applicable. When this is done by a guidance, you create an incentive for the agency to circumvent this very public scrutiny so that they can impose their will directly without it. That would clearly be a terrible outcome. Fortunately, the authors of this legislation wrote it precisely so that it could apply to a guidance, and they made it clear that was the outcome they wanted.

It doesn't end there, though. There have been more than a dozen instances already when Members of the Senate have asked the GAO to review guidance to determine whether that guidance rises to the level of importance and has the nature of a rulemaking so that it would be subject to the Congressional Review Act. As a matter of fact, within a single year of the passage of the Congressional Review Act, Congress asked GAO to review a guidance for this purpose. This has been done many times. In fact, it is our Democratic colleagues who set the precedent for attempting to overturn a guidance after the traditional CRA time window had expired because the guidance was not in the nature of a formal rulemaking.

In 2008, there was an effort by Senators Rockefeller and Baucus to overturn a CHIP guidance and to use the Congressional Review Act to do it, exactly as we are going to use today the Congressional Review Act to overturn a different guidance. That effort by Senators Rockefeller and Baucus had 41 cosponsors, including then-Senator Obama, Senators Biden, Clinton, Schumer, Durbin, Brown, and many other Democratic Senators who are still serving today. Senator Baucus, a Democrat, laid out the case. He said:

> One agency attempted to ignore its obligations and circumvent the process established by the CRA. And the agency should not be rewarded.

I couldn't agree more. He is exactly right. Here is more from Senator Baucus:

> This resolution is a way for Congress to send the message that it expects agencies to comply with the law. Congress should stand up for itself and disapprove of this rule, because it was not promulgated properly.

It makes perfect sense to be able to overturn a guidance that has the force of a rule, which is to say—really, let's be honest—the force of law was always contemplated as part of the CRA, and our Democratic colleagues attempted to use it for that very purpose. To do anything else would be to encourage the agencies to sneak around the Administrative Procedure Act, to avoid the public scrutiny and disclosure requirements, and promulgate rules through guidance routinely.

There is another more fundamental issue that I think we should be acknowledging; that is, the use of the Congressional Review Act is a really important—a modest but important step in the direction of restoring accountability to Congress.

As the Presiding Officer understands very well, the Constitution is completely unambiguous. It is very clear. Legislative authority is vested in Congress. It is supposed to be our responsibility to write the laws, but we delegate a huge amount of authority and power to the executive branch. We say: Well, you write these rules. Maybe, it is too complicated or, maybe, we don't want to be held accountable for the outcome. It happens all the time. There has been a huge shift whereby the permanent bureaucracy, the administration, has an enormous amount of power to effectively write laws. We call them rules, sometimes guidance, but they have the power of law. They have the force of law. They are not optional. They are imposed on whatever industry or individual is subject to them. At a minimum, I think, Congress ought to be reviewing this. This is a mechanism for holding Congress accountable for the rules that we tolerate the agencies to promulgate. I think it is a really important step in that direction.

Again, to summarize, the use of the Congressional Review Act to repeal a guidance is well established. It is consistent with any plain reading of the law. It is consistent with the intent of the authors at the time. Congress has attempted to do so in the past. Democrats have attempted to do it, and it is a modest but important step in restoring the accountability of Congress with respect to the regulations that we encourage the executive branch to promulgate. There is no evidence that this somehow opens a floodgate of repeal, as some have suggested. But any guidance—in fact any rulemaking, I think, ultimately should be subject to congressional review because, after all, it is our authority in the first place that is used to generate it. I am pleased that we were able to agree to the motion to proceed yesterday. My understanding is that we will be voting sometime around noon or so on this. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of repealing this ill-conceived regulation and restoring some modicum of congressional accountability to the rulemaking process.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING BARBARA BUSH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I send my heartfelt condolences to the Bush family on the passing of former First Lady Barbara Bush. Simply put, Mrs. Bush was the personification of grace and class as First Lady and as a human being throughout her life. She will be missed by people on both sides of the aisle and by all Americans.

FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. President, let me begin with the issue of our Nation's foreign policy.

Over the weekend, the Ambassador to the U.N., Nikki Haley, went on national television to announce a new round of sanctions against Russia for enabling the brutal Assad regime to commit chemical weapons attacks against its own people. Only 24 hours later, the White House reversed course, and senior administration officials blamed Nikki Haley for being ''confused.''

The word ''confused'' may, in fact, define this administration's foreign policy. Does anyone at the White House talk to each other? Is there a coordinated strategy or is our foreign policy completely subject to the President's fleeting whims, changing as they do, day-to-day and moment-to-moment, often being guided by what some commentator says on television? Unfortunately, that is what it looks like from the outside, and it is going to put America and our interests abroad in danger.

Predictability and consistency in foreign policy are not boring. They are fundamental assets. It lets our allies know that we will support them, and it lets our adversaries know that they cannot get away with violating national norms. The erratic nature of this administration's foreign policy, exemplified by the abrupt reversal of Nikki Haley's announcement, is something all Americans should be worried about.

All Americans should be concerned about President Trump's disturbing decision to pull back from sanctioning Russia for its support of Assad and for its enabling of his use of chemical weapons in the wanton murder of his own people. This extends a sad pattern of inconsistency toward Russia's malign activities, both here in America and across the globe, when what is required of this administration are more aggressive, comprehensive, and consistent policy actions that impose on Putin and his allies sufficient costs to change their behavior.

A second foreign policy issue is the administration's ongoing efforts to secure a diplomatic deal with North Korea. We all want diplomacy to succeed with North Korea. My primary concern with the President and his efforts with respect to North Korea relate to preparation and to discipline. We are all aware that the President makes decisions about sensitive issues without seeking—or in spite of—expert advice. Indeed, his decision to move forward with the North Korea summit was an example of this type of decision making. Yet, whether or not there is ever a time and place for this sort of

decision making, it is unquestionably the wrong way to approach a tense summit between two nuclear-armed adversaries.

We should all root for a diplomatic solution to the decades-long North Korean conflict because we know the costs of war on the Korean Peninsula would be catastrophic. That is why the United States should pursue a diplomatic opening, including through direct diplomacy with Pyongyang. Yet, thus far, we have not seen any indication that North Korea is willing to take concrete measures toward denuclearization.

We have read this book before, and I am concerned that the administration, without its having a clear or coherent strategy, is buying a pile of magic beans at the cost of our allies and partners and our own security. As Secretary Gates once said, ''I'm tired of buying the same horse twice.'' There is a diplomatic pathway forward with North Korea. It is just not clear that President Trump is on it or would even know how to find it or stay on it.

TRADE

Mr. President, on another matter, trade, the President and I don't agree on a whole lot, but on the issue of China's rapacious trading policies, we see eye to eye. Presidents from both parties, in my estimation, have failed to act strongly enough against the threat posed by China. President Trump, unlike both Presidents Bush and Obama, is finally doing something about it. I remain disappointed, however, that the President passed up the opportunity, once again, to label China as a currency manipulator.

Nonetheless, yesterday, a really good thing happened. The FCC voted unanimously to advance a measure to limit the ability of Chinese telecom companies to sell in the United States—chiefly Huawei and ZTE, two major Chinese telecom companies. Huawei and ZTE are both state-backed companies. Their effort to enter the American market is a great example of how China attempts to steal our private data and intellectual property. The FCC has said that allowing these two companies into the United States would pose a national security threat because it would give state-backed Chinese companies ''hidden 'back doors' to our networks'' that would allow them ''to inject viruses and other malware, steal Americans' private data, spy on U.S. businesses, and more.'' Those are the FCC's words.

The United States is a world leader in high-tech manufacturing and development, so, naturally, China's Government is going after that lucrative industry and continues to try to steal its way to a competitive advantage. Every one of our top industries that employs millions of Americans in good-paying jobs and makes our economy the envy of the world is targeted by the Chinese. This one is no different.

So I applaud the FCC's decision and President Trump for pursuing a tough course of action against China and its rapacious trading policies. The President is exactly right about China in that it seeks to take advantage of the United States in innumerable ways by undercutting our products, stealing our intellectual property, and denying American companies market access. I strongly encourage the FCC to finalize this measure, and I encourage President Trump to stick with his tougher posture toward China.

LEGISLATION BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. President, finally, a note about floor action this week. The Republicans are pushing, in succession, legislation that hurts labor rights and working people, consumers, the environment, and communities of color. President Trump, during his campaign, would often wonder aloud about what these folks had to lose by voting for him. Now we know.

The Republican majority seems intent on putting forward heavily partisan bills that have no chance of passing or have little practical impact but are simply designed to be divisive. That is not going to get us anywhere, and it is turning the Senate, which all of us want to be a deliberative, bipartisan body, into a bit of a farce this week—no debate, no amendments.

So I suggest to my colleagues on the other side: Let's get back to pursuing bipartisan accomplishments that actually advance the interests of the American worker, the American consumer, and the middle class. After all, that is what we were elected to do.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, thank you very much.

I come to the floor again today to visit a moment about S.J. Res. 57. It disapproves the CFPB guidance on indirect auto lending. This is a piece of legislation I introduced, and I appreciate the strong and valuable assistance I have had from the Senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. TOOMEY, and certainly the chairman of the Banking Committee, the Senator from Idaho, and other colleagues.

I want to talk just a moment about process, the use of a CRA, and the fact that the CFPB utilized what they called guidance as compared to a rulemaking process.

I want to make certain that my colleagues understand that Agencies and Departments still would be encouraged to put out guidance to ensure appropriate compliance with the law. This CRA resolution ought not have a chilling effect on guidance because guidance is a useful tool. It can be helpful to those who are being regulated, but it needs to be issued for traditional purposes—guidelines for complying with Federal law.

One of the CFPB's errors in issuing this guidance in this instance was that they proceeded down the path of an aggressive enforcement action in search of market-tipping settlements. If enforcement action is desired on the part of the agency, then a full rulemaking process ought to be conducted, and that is what the CFPB did not do. The CFPB used the guidance as an enforcement weapon instead of guidance in its more traditional and helpful purpose. It is important that we in Congress reorient the guidance process back to its intended form by ensuring that the CFPB cannot replicate its mistakes with regard to indirect auto lending.

The authors of the Congressional Review Act that we are operating under on this resolution, Senators Nickles, Reid, and Stevens, in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 1996, said: ''The authors are concerned that some agencies have attempted to circumvent notice-and-comment requirements by trying to give legal effect to general statements of policy, 'guidelines,' and agency policy and procedure manuals.''

Even in 1996, my previous colleagues were concerned about what actually transpired at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Clearly, the CRA was passed in 1996 with the understanding that agency guidance had been used inappropriately.

It is important for Congress to reassert its role in policymaking from the executive branch. All Members of Congress ought to be committed to conducting oversight over the rest of the Federal Government. Failure on the part of Congress to hold Federal agencies to account when they stray from their statutory and congressionally intended jurisdiction means we will get de facto legislation being originated in the executive branch. This effort is about making certain that the form and function of the Federal Government is accountable to the American people.

Kansans hold me to account for the actions I take in Washington, DC, on their behalf. In turn, they expect me to hold other components of their government to account. Congress is the link between the American people and the Federal Government. I will continue to use the position that Kansans have entrusted to me to make certain I am representing their interest in Washington, DC, and can do so only by working with my Senate colleagues to oversee and correct mistakes made by other branches of the government. Today, we will do that with the adoption of S.J. Res. 57.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

REMEMBERING BARBARA BUSH

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to say a few words—I know a number of my colleagues have—before I start my discussion on the very important Coast Guard bill we are debating on the floor.

America lost a wonderful example of a strong woman, Mrs. Barbara Bush, yesterday. I think the entire country and I know the whole Senate sends its prayers and condolences to the Bush family.

If you want an example of an American citizen who represents strength, dignity, and class, and who really served our Nation so well, it was Barbara Bush. The thoughts and prayers of the Senate are with the Bush family right now.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. President, as the Presiding Officer who sits on the Armed Services Committee with me knows, each year this body, the Congress—House and Senate—passes the Defense Authorization Act or the NDAA as it is called. It is an important bill. It moves forward the policies and authorizations of spending for the men and women serving in the military. It can be contentious, but at the end of the day for over a half century we have moved that bill forward each year.

We always forget one of the branches of the U.S. military—the men and women who serve in the Coast Guard of the United States of America. We don't always move the Coast Guard Authorization Act forward. That is not because they are not as important as the other Members of the military. In some ways, it is just a twist of the organization here in Congress. The Coast Guard is under the jurisdiction of the Commerce Committee not the Armed Services Committee and is under the executive branch jurisdiction of the Department of Homeland Security, not the Pentagon. It is still an incredibly important organization for all of us, and so today we are going to vote on the Coast Guard Authorization Act, that we should be moving every year just like we move the NDAA because the men and women who serve in the Coast Guard are some of America's finest citizens.

I see my colleague from Mississippi, Senator WICKER, joining me on the floor. We have been working on this bill, the Coast Guard Authorization Act, for about 1 year now. We faced a lot of roadblocks, and we have moved forward on a bipartisan basis to finally get this important bill to the floor.

As the chairman of the subcommittee in charge of the Coast Guard, I feel it is very important to take a minute on the Senate floor to speak about what the men and women in our Coast Guard do on a daily basis so everybody, the people watching back home and the people in my State, the great State of Alaska, know just how important the Coast Guard is and how we are focusing on them.

Many people in the country know the Coast Guard as the heroic Americans who literally come out of the sky to rescue us when we are in trouble, particularly on the high seas. I have heard them described as angels in helicopters with courage and dignity and strength. When they show up, it is certainly America witnessing its very best.

Let me give just a few examples of what the Coast Guard does on a daily basis—certainly in my State. Here are a few examples from just the past few weeks:

In Oregon, a Coast Guard aircrew rescued four commercial fishermen after their 54-foot fishing vessel capsized off the coast of Rockaway Beach.

In Kauai, HI, the Coast Guard is assisting in recovery efforts following a storm dropping more than 27 inches of rain, causing severe flooding.

On Sunday, the Coast Guard rescued four people from the water in Blackwater Sound near Key Largo, FL, and they rescued eight people aboard a disabled vessel just a few days ago near Pensacola Bay Bridge, FL.

In New York, the Coast Guard crew just medevacked a 25-year-old man from a fishing vessel.

In my great State of Alaska, the Coast Guard is vital. Alaska has more coastline than the rest of the country combined. Think about that. Just in the past few weeks, there have been numerous rescues, as there typically are in Alaska given our tough weather, including a 44-year-old man from a fishing vessel outside of Dutch Harbor, a 59-year-old man from the waters off the Aleutian chain, and another 43-year-old man who was stranded on the barrier islands—just in the last couple of weeks.

Every one of these individuals—Americans—is alive today because of the Coast Guard. They are someone's father, brother, mother, daughter. They are someone's loved ones, and the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard had the courage to go out and rescue them.

All in all, in addition to numerous humanitarian and law enforcement operations, including drug interdictions and coming to the rescue of hundreds of migrants who were on overcrowded and unsafe vessels, the Coast Guard is working 24/7 for us, 365 days a year. Their mission also includes icebreaking, marine and environmental protection, port security, international crisis response—the response to hurricanes that so many Americans saw over the last several months—and readiness to support Department of Defense operations, as they are the fifth branch of the U.S. military. Sometimes we forget that.

So this bill that we are debating right now and that we are going to be voting on in a little bit here on the Senate floor is the bill that sets the policies, the spending authorization, and the readiness standards for the entire U.S. Coast Guard. It is enormously important, and I believe it should pass in a bipartisan way—the way it passed out of the Commerce Committee—with a strong vote from Senators, Republicans and Democrats, on both sides of the aisle.

The Coast Guard Authorization Act also contains many important items for our fishermen, fisheries, maritime industries, maritime unions, and maritime workers. Let me give some important examples.

Included in this legislation is language to permanently fix issues that have plagued our fishermen and our commercial vessel owners and operators in the maritime industry and the workers in that industry for decades. We have an opportunity here to make good policy—again, bipartisan policy—that we have been debating for years in the Congress.

Currently, our fishing fleets and vessel owners and operators are forced to comply with a patchwork of burdensome Federal and State regulations for ballast water and incidental discharges.

Let me start by talking about the incidental discharges. If you are a commercial fisherman on a vessel and you catch some fish and you want to hose off your deck because you have fish parts where you may have gutted and headed fish—let's face it, the fishing industry can be a bit messy—under current law, believe it or not, you have to get permission from the EPA to do this. You need a permit, and if you don't have one, you can face a fine. OK, think about that. You have taken a fish out of the water. You have processed it. You are hosing down your deck. It has some fish guts on it. For the fish parts to go back into the ocean, you need a permit. Yes, everybody in the country thinks this is ridiculous, and it is. It creates inefficiencies, adds business costs, inhibits economic prosperity in States like mine, certainly, and it kills jobs.

Most fishermen—most fishing vessels—are small business owners. They are the ultimate small business owners. They take risks. They work hard. They create and produce a great product, such as wild Alaska salmon. Yet we are regulating them with these kinds of inefficient regulations that nobody supports. It is just another burden that we put on the men and women who are actually trying to make a living and create economic opportunities for others. So this bill, which has strong bipartisan support, does away with that because it makes no sense.

Another provision in this bill tries to cut through a patchwork of burdensome State regulations for vessel ballast water. Currently, ballast water is regulated under both the Coast Guard and the EPA—dual regulations. That is trouble enough. They each have separate and inconsistent and sometimes directly conflicting sets of Federal requirements, and then you layer on State requirements too.

Let me give an example. You are a commercial vessel owner/operator going up the full length of the Mississippi River. Right now, not only must you comply with the inconsistent Coast Guard and EPA requirements, but you also have to comply with different and separate requirements from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas. Again, it makes no sense. There are 25 States regulating

ballast water under separate, inconsistent, and often directly conflicting sets of requirements. This cripples not only the American economy but also the hard-working men and women of our country who work in the maritime industry.

By the way, it makes it more likely that invasive species—a very real and serious issue—will accidentally be introduced because there is such a conflicting patchwork of regulations. I am very aware of the invasive species issues that plague different States. There are a lot of concerns we have heard, and certainly we have addressed it in this bill—from the Great Lakes.

If the current patchwork system worked, well, I think a number of us would be supportive, but it simply doesn't work. It is not working at all, and it is only getting worse. This confusing array of requirements will only continue to grow, confusing vessel owners and operators and their workers and making it literally almost impossible to comply. The EPA says one thing, the Coast Guard says another thing, and 25 different States say 25 different other things.

One person who knows this issue very well is the current Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Zukunft. Just yesterday, he told the House Appropriations Committee that ''it makes sense to have one entity'' regulating vessels—at very high standards but one entity. ''I really put myself in the shoes of a mariner,'' he said, talking about how difficult it is with the current system. ''Competing entities doing the enforcement operations'' is not working. He said that the Coast Guard understands the issue best, understands the mariners, and also, importantly, understands the technology.

Even the EPA has said that the rules developed by the Coast Guard, which knows this issue best, will work for them because our bill requires concurrence with the EPA. Under the legislation that we are debating right now in the Senate, you cannot set a standard unless the EPA concurs, which is important. They essentially have a veto over this, but they know that the Agency that is best suited to regulate moving vessels on the water is not their Agency—the professional staff of the EPA have said that—it is the Coast Guard, which is where we put the regulatory authority in this bill.

Further, under the bill, States have the authority to enforce the Federal regulations regarding ballast water and incidental discharge. So the States still have a lot of power and authority on the enforcement side in this bill.

This confusing patchwork of regulations only diminishes the overall effectiveness of U.S. efforts to meet the high environmental standards that we all want. We need strong, uniform, national standards to keep our waters clean and to defend against invasive species, and we also need these standards so the workers and the people in this industry—a huge industry for America—can go and do their job.

The good news here is that we have been working on this issue for at least the past 3 years that I have been in the Senate, but we have really been working on it for decades. For the most part, we have had strong bipartisan support to get this bill done. Let me give some examples.

There are 23 Members from both sides of the aisle who have cosponsored these vessel incidental discharge provisions that I am talking about—23 cosponsors. Many more signed on to a letter of support for this, Democrats and Republicans.

This bill has been voted out of committee several times. It has strong bipartisan support—including when the Democrats were in control of the Senate a couple years ago. We all worked diligently to make sure we addressed all the issues and concerns raised by many Members, and we even got some longtime opponents to come over and support this bill, again through the great work of my colleague from Mississippi. Let me give another example of that.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter of support from a very broad-based group of unions, workers, small businesses, maritime operators, and fishermen.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

APRIL 16, 2018.

DEAR SENATOR: We are writing to express our strong support for Title VIII of S. 1129, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2017, the bipartisan Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA). Our organizations represent U.S. and international vessel owners and operators; fishing vessel, passenger vessel and charterboat operators; labor unions; marine terminals and port authorities national business organizations; and industries that rely on maritime shipping to transport essential cargoes in domestic and international commerce.

VIDA is the product of bipartisan leadership and negotiation to construct a framework that will protect our waterways, foster efficient and cost-effective maritime commerce, and maintain appropriate roles for the Coast Guard, EPA and states. It is imperative that this legislation be enacted without further delay. We respectfully urge you to support the motion to proceed, cloture and final passage of S.1129.

VIDA, which currently has 24 bipartisan Senate cosponsors and 37 bipartisan House cosponsors, would eliminate a regulatory burden hindering interstate and international commerce by replacing a patchwork of federal and state regulations with uniform national standards for the regulation of ballast water and other discharges incidental to normal vessel operations. The bill would also maintain protective measures jointly undertaken by industry and federal agencies to reduce the movement of invasive species on the navigable waterways.

Without VIDA, commercial vessel owners will spend millions of dollars installing onboard equipment to comply with Coast Guard and EPA requirements, but still be at risk of fines and penalties for violating state requirements that cannot be met by existing technology. This overlapping patchwork of federal and state regulations kills jobs, undermines the efficiency of maritime transportation, increases business costs, and places mariners at risk of civil and criminal prosecution. It also delays investments in treatment technology that will strengthen environmental protection.

VIDA would provide vessel owners and mariners with a predictable and transparent regulatory structure in which vessel incidental discharges are regulated and enforced by the U.S. Coast Guard, using as its baseline the ballast water discharge standard that EPA's Science Advisory Board has determined to be the most stringent currently achievable. The bill will ensure the installation of high-performing technologies on commercial vessels, and allows for improvements in the national standard as technology improves. VIDA also preserves the ability of states to enforce the federal ballast water discharge standard, petition for a higher standard, work with Coast Guard to develop best management practices, and regulate recreational vessels operating in their waters.

VIDA will also permanently exempt fishing vessels and vessels under 79 feet from EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program. These vessels have been operating under a series of temporary exemptions enacted by Congress. Permanent relief is needed for the operators of these vessels, as long-term regulatory certainty is needed for the operators of large commercial vessels.

VIDA will strengthen protections for America's waterways, provide a stable regulatory structure for interstate and international maritime commerce, and eliminate needlessly duplicative regulatory programs. Please support passage of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2017.

Respectfully,

ADM; AccuTrans, Inc.; AEP River Transportation; AK Steel; Alabama Charter Fishing Association; Albany Port District Commission; Alaska Charter Association; American Association of Port Authorities; American Commercial Barge Line LLC; American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers; American Great Lakes Ports Association; American Institute of Marine Underwriters (AIMU); American Iron and Steel Institute; American Maritime Congress; American Maritime Officers; American Maritime Officers Service; American Petroleum Institute; American Petroleum Tankers; American President Lines, LLC; American River Transportation Company.

American Roll-on Roll-off Carrier (ARC); American Steamship Company; American Tunaboat Association; Amherst Madison, Inc.; Andrie Inc.; ArcelorMittal USA; Armstrong Steamship Company; Associaçao E6 de Armadores da Marinha do Comércio; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association; Atsea Processors Association; Avalon Freight Services; Bahamas Shipowners Association; Bay Shipbuilding Company; Baydelta Maritime; Bay-Houston Towing Company; Beach Haven Charter Fishing Association; Bell Steamship Company; Benchmark Marine Agency; Blessey Marine Services, Inc.; Borghese Lane LLC.

Bren Transportation Corp.; Brown Water Marine Service, Inc.; Buffalo Marine Service, Inc.; C & J Marine Services, Inc.; C&M Shipping & Trading Agency, Inc.; Callais & Sons, LLC; Calumet River Fleeting, Inc.; Campbell Transportation Company, Inc.; Canal Barge Company, Inc.; Canfornav Ltd.; Cape Cod Charter Boat Association; Carmeuse Lime and Stone; Central Boat Rentals, Inc.; Central Dock Company; Central Marine Logistics; CGBM 100, LLC; Chamber of Marine Commerce; Chamber of Shipping (Canada); Chamber of Shipping of America; Channel Design Group.

Charterboat Association of Puget Sound; Chesapeake Bay Charter Boat Association;

Chicago & Western Great Lakes Port Council, MTD, AFL-CIO; Chicago Sportfishing Association; Chincoteague Island Charterboat Association; City of Superior, Wisconsin; Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority; Cliffs Natural Resources Inc.; CN, Duluth, MN; ConocoPhillips; Consumer Energy; Consumer Energy Alliance—Midwest; C-PORT, Conference of Professional Operators for Response Towing; Crounse Corporation; Crowley Maritime Corporation; Cruise Lines International Association; CSX Transportation, Toledo Docks; Cyprus Shipping Chamber; D & S Marine Service, L.L.C.; Daniels Shipping Service.

Dann Marine Towing, LC; Dann Ocean Towing, Inc.; Deale Captains Association; Deloach Marine Services; Detroit-Wayne County Port Authority; Devall Brothers Barge Line II, LLC; Devall Brothers Towing II, LLC; Devall Commercial Barge Line, LLC; Devall Diesel Services, LLC; Devall Enterprises, LLC; Devall Offshore Barge Line, LLC; Devall Offshore, LLC; Devall Resources, Inc.; Devall Third Generation Towing, LLC; Devall Towing & Boat Service of Hackberry, L.L.C.; Dock 63; Donjon Marine Co., Inc.; Donjon Shipbuilding & Repair; Dredging Contractors of America; DTE Electric Co.

Duluth Seaway Port Authority; Durocher Marine; E Squared Marine Service, LLC; E.N. Bisso & Son, Inc.; Eastern Lake Erie Charterboat Association; Edw. C. Levy Co.; Ergon Marine and Industrial Supply; Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority; European Community Shipowners' Associations; Evansville Marine Service, Inc.; Faroese Merchant Shipowners Association; Faulkner, Hoffman & Phillips; Fednav Ltd.; Fishing Vessel Owner's Association; Florida Guides Association, Inc.; Foss Maritime Company; Fraser Shipyards; General Marine Services LLC; Genesee Charter Association, Inc.; Global Marine Transportation, Inc.; Golden Gate Fishermen's Association.

Golding Barge Line, Inc.; Grand River Navigation Company; Great Lakes District Council-ILA, AFL-CIO; Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company, LLC; Great Lakes Fleet; Great Lakes Maritime Task Force; Greater Point Pleasant Charter Boat Association; Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association; Hackberry Land, LLC; Hallett Dock Company; Harbor Towing & Fleeting, LLC; Harley Marine Services; Hawaii Resource Group LLC; Higman Marine Services, Inc.; Homer Charter Association; Hong Kong Shipowners Association; Hughes Bros., Inc.; Huntington District Waterways Association; ILA Lake Erie Coal & Ore Dock Council; ILA Local 1317.

ILA Local 1768; Illinois Chamber of Commerce; Illinois International Port District; Illinois Marine Towing, Inc.; Ilwaco Charter Association; Indian National Shipowners' Association; Indiana's North Coast Charter Association; Ingram Barge Company; Inland Lakes Management; Inland Marine Service; Int'l Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers District Lodge 1943; Int'l Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers District Lodge 4; Int'l Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers District Lodge 60; Int'l Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers District Lodge 65; Int'l Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers District Lodge 98; Integrity—Black Lake Fleeting Services, LLC; Integrity Terminal and Marine Services, LLC; International Association of Drilling Contractors; International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers; International Brotherhood of Boilermakers.

International Chamber of Shipping; International Longshoremen's Association; International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots; International Propeller Club of the United States; International Shipmasters' Association; International Shipmasters' Association (St. Catharines ON); International Union of Operating Engineers, Locals 49, 139, 150 and 324; InterShip, Inc.; INTERTANKO; Irish Chamber of Shipping; J&J Maritime Operators, LLC; Jacksonville Marine Transportation Exchange; James Transportation, LLC; JANTRAN, Inc.; Japanese Shipowners' Association; JB Marine Service, Inc.; JEFFBOAT LLC; Juneau Charter Boat Operators Association; K&L Gates LLP; Kindra Lake Towing, LP.

Kirby Corp.; Lake Carriers' Association; Lake Erie Ship Repair & Fabrication; Lake Michigan Carferry Service; Lake Michigan Yachting Association; Lakes Pilots Association; LeBeouf Bros. Towing, LLC; Liberian Shipowners' Council Ltd; Liberty Maritime Corporation; Lorain Port Authority; Louisiana Association of Waterways Operators and Shipyards; Luedtke Engineering Company; M&P Barge Company, Inc.; Maersk, Inc.; Magnolia Marine Transport Co.; Maine Association of Charter Captains; Manatee County Port Authority; Marco Island Charter Captains Association; Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association; Marine Tech.

Maritime Association of the Port of New York-New Jersey; Maritime Institute for Research and Industrial Development; Maritime Port Council of Greater NY/NJ & Vicinity; Maritime Trades Department, AFL–CIO; Marquette Transportation Company, Inc.; Maryland Charterboat Association; Maryland Port Administration; McAllister Towing; MCM Marine; Metal Trades Department, AFL–CIO; Michigan City Charterboat Association; Michigan Maritime Trades Port Council, MTD, AFL–CIO; Midwater Trawlers Cooperative; Midwest Energy Resources Company; Mississippi Charter Boat Captains Association; Montana Coal Council; Moran Iron Works; Moran Towing Corporation; Muskegon Port Advisory Committee; National Association of Charterboat Operators.

National Association of Manufacturers; National Association of Maritime Organizations; National Association of Waterfront Employers; National Grain and Feed Association; National Mining Association; Navy League of the United States; New York Shipping Association; Norfolk Southern Corporation; Norfolk Tug Company; North Pacific Fishing Vessel Owners Association; Northeast Charterboat Captains Association; Northern Neck Charter Captains; Northwest Marine Trades Association; Octopus Towing LLC; Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority; Osborne Concrete & Stone Co.; Overseas Shipholding Group (OSG); P&M Marine Services LLC; P&R Water Taxi LLC; Panama City Boatmen Association.

Parker Towing Company, Inc.; Passenger Vessel Association; Pere Marquette Shipping Company; Petersburg Charterboat Association; Philadelphia Regional Port Authority; Polsteam USA Inc.; Port City Marine Services, Inc.; Port City Steamship Holding Company, Inc.; Port of Green Bay; Port of Milwaukee; Port of Monroe, Michigan; Port of Oswego Authority; Ports of Indiana; Prince William Sound Charter Boat Association; Progressive Barge Line, Inc.; Rod 'N' Reel Captains Assoc. Inc.; Ryba Marine Construction Company; Saltchuk; Sause Bros.; SCF Marine Inc.

Seabulk Towing; Seafarers International Union; Shipping Federation of Canada; Singapore Shipping Association; Solomon's Charter Captains Association; Soo Marine Supply, Inc.; Southeast Alaska Guides Organization; Southern Offshore Fishing Association; Southern Towing Company; Spanish Shipowners' Association; Spliethoff; St. Lawrence Seaway Pilots Association; Steel Manufacturers Association; Tata Steel; Ten Mile Exchange LLC; Terral River Service, Inc.; Texas Waterways Operators Association; The American Waterways Operators; The CSL Group Inc.; The Interlake Steamship Company.

The King Co.; The Port of New Orleans; The Royal Association of Netherlands Shipowners; The Upper Bay Charter Captains Association; The Vane Brothers Company; Tidewater Barge Lines, Inc.; Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority; Toledo Port Council, MTD, AFL–CIO; TPG Chicago Dry Dock; TradeWinds Towing LLC; Transportation Institute; Trojan Technologies Inc.; Turn Services, LLC; U.S. Chamber of Commerce; U.S. Steel Corporation; UK Chamber of Shipping; Union of Greek Shipowners; United Boatmen of New Jersey; United States Great Lakes Shipping Association; United Steelworkers, District 1, AFL–CIO–CLC.

United Steelworkers, Local 5000; Upper Mississippi Waterway Association; Upper River Services, LLC; VanEnkevort Tug & Barge Inc.; Verplank Dock Co.; Victoria Fleet, LLC; Virginia Charter Boat Association; Virginia Maritime Association; Wagenborg Shipping North America; Water Quality Insurance Syndicate; Waukegan Charter Boat Association; Wepfer Marine Inc; West Dock and Market—Port of Muskegon; WESTAR Marine Services; Western Great Lakes Pilots Association, LLP; Western States Petroleum Association; Westport Charter Boat Association; Wilmington Tug, Inc.; Wood Towing, LLC; World Shipping Council; and World Shipping Inc.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I won't go into it. I have seen a lot of these kinds of letters supporting legislation, but I have rarely seen a letter that is pages and pages long—steelworkers, International Union of Operating Engineers, Juneau Charter Boat Operators Association, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Eastern Lake Erie Charterboat Association. This letter supporting the Coast Guard bill has many different groups supporting it, and that is why there has been so much strong bipartisan support.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I wonder if my colleague will yield on that point.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I will be glad to yield.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I appreciate the Senator from Alaska mentioning the broad base of support, and it occurs to me that this legislation has garnered the support of the chamber of commerce and organized labor.

Mr. SULLIVAN. That is correct.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, in an effort not to take up too much time, the Senator from Alaska didn't mention that the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers is for this bill. The International Longshoremen's Association is for this bill. We have crafted something—with the help of Democrats and the help of Republicans, with the help of labor and business—that has brought these people together to help us protect American maritime jobs.

I want to commend the Senator from Alaska also for the work he has done in accommodating people.

I ask my friend, am I correct that this is not the first version we had of this bill?

Mr. SULLIVAN. That is correct.

We actually made literally dozens of changes over the last several months

to accommodate almost every single Senator that had requested a change to address some of their issues. We have made numerous changes to this bill, for Republicans and Democrats, to make sure we have strong bipartisan support, and we are certainly hoping that the changes we made for so many Senators who have been supportive of the bill will now lead a strong bipartisan vote here in a little bit.

Mr. WICKER. I am not going to ask my colleague to yield all of his time to me, but I would just observe this to my friends on both sides of the aisle. This is the kind of bipartisan legislative effort on the part of my colleague from Alaska that ought to be rewarded.

A Member of the minority party has come to him expressing concerns, and those concerns have largely been met at every pass. It is not like we are trying to jam something on the part of the business community or the far right. I just have to say to my colleague from Alaska that he has done a heroic effort. We need a couple of more votes from people who have, at one time or another, expressed strong support for this legislation.

Mr. SULLIVAN. They have not only expressed strong support but have cosponsored this legislation.

Mr. WICKER. We really should send a signal to the American people that we trust each other, that we appreciate somebody like the Senator from Alaska who has bent over backward to make this work for America, to make this work for labor, to make this work for the waterway operators, and to make this work for the environment. I think this will enhance the environmental system in our waterways all over the country.

I thank the Senator for yielding time. Once again, I just have to say how much I admire the statesmanship of this relatively junior Senator from Alaska in working across the aisle and making this a bill that we ought to all be proud of.

I thank the Senator for yielding.

Mr. SULLIVAN. I thank the Senator from Mississippi for his very kind words. This has been a team effort. We have been working together. Democrats have been working with us. My colleagues from Florida, from Pennsylvania—we have all been down here talking about this. I know there are going to be strong votes in favor.

I do want to mention that the minority leader was just on the floor, and he ended his remarks that he just made a couple of minutes ago about how it is really important for the Senate to get back to bipartisan accomplishments that help the American worker. He just said that. Well, my colleague from New York, I couldn't agree more. That is what this bill is.

I am going to mention one other thing before I actually do my presiding time. I appreciate the Presiding Officer giving me a few additional minutes before I get in the Chair.

We have been dealing with this issue. Some have raised the issue that they are concerned about what the vessel incidental discharge provisions in this bill that I just talked about could do to the environment. I am from the great State of Alaska. We have the most pristine, beautiful environment in the world, and the cleanest water in the world. We want to keep it that way. I am all about that.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this document be submitted in the RECORD called ''The Vessel Incidental Discharge Act: Good for the Environment—Good for Business.''

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE VESSEL INCIDENTAL DISCHARGE ACT: GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT—GOOD FOR BUSINESS

The Vessel Incidental Discharge Act, or ''VIDA,'' would require the Coast Guard and the EPA to establish uniform, national standards for the treatment and management of ballast water and other discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels. Treatment of ballast water is an important safeguard against the introduction of aquatic invasive species. The bill would establish an initial ballast water treatment standard equivalent to the Coast Guard and EPA's current standards—the most stringent standard current technology can achieve. For incidental discharges other than ballast water (such as deck runoff, anchor effluent, etc), the bill would require the establishment of best management practices within two years of the date of enactment of the Act.

MYTHS VERSUS FACTS

Myth #1: The bill lowers the environmental standards for ballast water.

FACT: The new standards and requirements would be required to be based upon the best available technology economically achievable (BATEA), and would ramp up over time as new, more advanced technology becomes available. Specifically, the bill incorporates the Clean Water Act's BATEA regulatory regime to establish its uniform standards and revise them to be more stringent over time.

Myth #2: The current regulatory regime works.

FACT: Today, the Coast Guard, EPA, and 25 states are regulating ballast water under separate, inconsistent, and sometimes directly conflicting sets of requirements. This not only cripples the American economy, but also makes it more likely that invasive species will accidentally be introduced.

Myth #3: The EPA has the expertise to enforce ballast water standards.

FACT: The Coast Guard is the United States' premier maritime law enforcement service. It currently enforces ballast water standards through vessel inspections, not the EPA. However, the service cannot do a thorough and robust job because of the current patchwork and contradictory regulatory regime. This bill gives the Coast Guard the clarity and authority it needs to do a good job.

Myth #4: There is no science behind the new national standards.

FACT: This bill sets a current federal ballast water discharge standard, which the EPA's Science Advisory Board deemed the most stringent currently achievable. Moreover, when ramping up those standards, the Coast Guard, in consultation with the EPA, will set the new standard based on sound science and the best available technology economically achievable.

Myth #5: The bill undermines a States' ability to regulate ballast water.

FACT: The bill ensures that States will be able to enforce Federal requirements and, importantly, that States will be able to set future standards and best practices though an exhaustive petitioning process.

As an example, both the Coast Guard and EPA require a ballast water management system (BWMS) aboard a vessel covered by their regulations. On the one hand, the Coast Guard's regulations generally require that a BWMS be type-approved by the Coast Guard. In the case of a manufacturer whose BWMS has been approved by a foreign regulatory authority pursuant to Convention standards, that manufacturer may request a Coast Guard determination that its BWMS qualifies as an Alternate Management System (AMS). On the other hand, the EPA's Vessel General Permit (VGP) requires only that a BWMS ''has been shown to be effective by testing conducted by an independent third party laboratory, test facility or test organization.'' Although a BWMS approved by the Coast Guard is deemed by the VGP to comply with its effectiveness requirement, a BWMS may also be tested and found effective under the VGP by another ''laboratory, test facility, or test organization,'' even though it has not been approved by the Coast Guard. Thus a BWMS could end up being installed on a vessel in compliance with the VGP, yet not comply with Coast Guard regulations.

On top of this duplicative, inconsistent, and confusing Federal regime, subjecting vessels to NPDES has opened the door for States to establish their own varying standards and requirements for vessel discharges. California, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, and Washington are among those that already have promulgated their own ballast water management requirements that also apply to commercial vessels navigating in State waters. In 2006, the State of California enacted a ballast water treatment standard at the recommendation of the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) that requires less than 0.01 living organisms measuring between 10 and 50 micrometers per milliliter of ballast water discharged (1000 times the IMO D–2 standard) and requires zero detectable living organisms greater than 50 micrometers per milliliter of ballast water discharged. However, the State has continued to delay implementation of its requirement that vessel owner/operators install BWMS that meet these standards because no BWMS are available that meet California's treatment standards. In the CSLC staff's words: More specifically, shipboard ballast water treatment systems cannot be considered available to meet the California performance standards because: 1) no ballast water treatment system has demonstrated efficacy for all of the California performance standards based on the best available data, 2) there are no suitable methods/technology to analyze ballast water samples to determine treatment system efficacy for some of the California performance standards, and 3) a lack of sampling/compliance protocols precludes the ability of the Commission to make a conclusive determination about the availability of shipboard ballast water treatment systems to meet the California performance standards.

In all, 25 States have certified the VGP subject to additional requirements The compliance challenges posed by this situation are staggering. As an example, a commercial vessel owner/operator transiting the full length of the Mississippi River is required to comply not only with applicable Coast Guard requirements under NANPCA/NISA and the EPA's VGP requirements, but also with varying additional VGP permit requirements imposed by the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas. This confusing array of requirements

will only continue to grow, confusing vessel owner/operators seeking in good faith to comply, confounding law enforcement authorities, unnecessarily impeding maritime commerce, and, most importantly, diminishing the overall effectiveness of U.S. efforts to combat aquatic invasive species. Strong, uniform national standards are necessary to effectively defend against invasive species brought to the United States in ballast water. The Vessel Incidental Discharge Act would require the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating (Secretary), in consultation with the Administrator of the EPA (Administrator), to establish and implement enforceable, uniform, national standards and requirements for the regulation of ballast water discharges and other discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels. The new standards and requirements would be required to be based upon the best available technology economically achievable, and would generally supersede the current jumble of Federal and State incidental discharge requirements. However, States would retain authority to enforce the new requirements in their waters.—Minority Staff, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. SULLIVAN. This document has myths versus facts on what people are saying that this bill could do, and then it gives you the facts. I am not going to read each one, but if we have to have a debate on it, I certainly will read each one. It is really important to see this wasn't created by Senator WICKER or me. If you look at the author of this, it was the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation—our committee—written by the minority staff. What does that mean?

This is a Democratic staff under the minority and the Ranking Member on the committee saying that all the things you are hearing about how this is going to be bad are not true. Those are myths. These are the facts. These are our Democratic colleagues rebutting some of the people now looking to maybe not vote for this.

I ask all of my colleagues who are on the fence to take a look at this really well-produced myths-versus-facts sheet that was produced by our Democratic colleagues on the Commerce Committee because, again, it goes to what Senator WICKER was talking about—that this is a very strong bipartisan bill that we have been working on for months or really years. This has passed out of committee, I think, six different times with strong bipartisan support, including when the Democrats were chairing the committee.

I want to say to all of my colleagues that it is not just what is in this bill on the VIDA provision, or the discharge provision.

The bill is about the Coast Guard, the men and women serving in the Coast Guard. Every year, as I mentioned, we pass the NDAA, which is great—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines—but we always forget about the Coast Guard, and we shouldn't be doing that. They are heroic young men and women. We can send a bipartisan signal today that we care about them. We are recognizing the heroic work you do for this country and the lives you save every day. We have your back.

I urge all of my colleagues, particularly my colleagues who know this issue, who have voted for this bill to come out of committee many times—there are well over 60 of us—to vote yes on this important bill when it comes to the floor in a few minutes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleagues in advance of today's Congressional Review Act vote. I want to be clear about something. We are here today for a CRA vote, or a Congressional Review Act vote, that is on agency guidance—not a rule but an agency guidance from 2013—that seeks to protect consumers from discrimination.

CRAs are rule rollbacks. They are rolling back rules. They are not, though, meant to apply to years-old guidance from Federal agencies.

Today's vote is actually a radical departure of longstanding norms and statutory interpretation that will change the scope of the Congressional Review Act. What, then, could possibly be so important and so urgent that today we would break from longstanding tradition and demand a vote on something that could set an entirely new precedent for this body?

What is the guidance—not rule—that the Trump administration and Republican leadership of this body are going so far out of their way to undo? What this guidance does, very simply and very clearly, is to try to prevent discrimination in purchasing.

In 2013, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau put this guidance in place in response to, unfortunately, widespread and well-documented persistent discrimination against Americans of color when financing the purchase of a car. The guidance did nothing more than remind indirect auto lenders that they were liable under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act for pricing disparities caused by markup in compensation policies. It offered concrete steps to those auto dealers that they could use to ensure compliance and support for fair lending.

Auto lending is the third most common source of debt for all Americans. We know that the way the established financing model works too often leaves space for implicit racial bias and leaves space for discrimination against Americans of color.

We know from studies that Americans of color who have better credit and who go in to try to purchase and finance a car, compared to White Americans with worse credit, will often get higher interest rates and worse terms on their loans set by auto dealers. In fact, in one specific study conducted by the National Fair Housing Alliance, they paired White Americans and people of color to visit auto dealerships and shop for the same car within 24 hours of each other. Unfortunately, and surprisingly—or maybe not to some—in most cases the applicant who was a person of color, despite having better credit and less debt, was offered higher cost financing options than the less-qualified White applicant. This is a practice that no one can support. This is a practice that most Americans think is outrageous. It is clearly wrong, and we should address it.

But we also know that, unfortunately, this kind of discrimination isn't unique to the auto industry. There are many areas of American lives where people of color, under the same circumstances, are often paying more. We know that implicit racial bias exists across sectors and industries and is a persistent issue causing people of color to have higher costs of living and to pay more.

Take the three largest lending markets: mortgages, student loans, and auto loans. We know discrimination persists in mortgage lending. A recent report by the Center for Investigative Reporting analyzed 31 million mortgage records from 2015 and 2016—just a couple of years ago. They found that people of color were much more likely to be denied a conventional mortgage than White applicants, even after controlling for economic and social factors, including applicants' income, the size of the loan they sought, and the neighborhood where they wanted to buy.

Look at student loans. For-profit colleges disproportionately enroll students of color and saddle them often with unaffordable student loans, while offering little in the way of value in exchange.

Look at payday loans. Study after study shows that payday lenders concentrate themselves in communities of color where they prey upon financially distressed, low-income people and make a bad financial situation markedly worse.

In 2018 we should all agree that we should be doing everything we can to protect against this kind of discrimination. When you test, time and again, better qualified loan applicants walking in and, within 24 hours, less qualified applicants walking in, as well, and they get the better loan deal, the only difference is the color of their skin. This is unacceptable in an America that believes in fairness.

We should, in a very light touch, do something about that. That is what this advice did. This advisory simply said: Hey, auto lenders, here are some steps you can take to address this issue.

The study I referenced of sending in a Black couple followed by a White couple is something that hits home for me very personally. My family, in the 1960s, was part of a similar situation. In this case, it was buying the home that I grew up in. In 1969, just 1 year after the passage of the Fair Housing Act, when my parents were trying to find a home in New Jersey, they encountered an illegal practice known as real estate steering, or trying to keep Black families like mine out of White

neighborhoods. Their bids on homes were routinely rejected in favor of White couples.

Eventually, my parents went to seek the help of a group of housing activists—volunteer lawyers, Black folks, White folks, Christian folks, Jewish folks—all part of a group in New Jersey called the Fair Housing Council. Together, they set up a sting operation where my parents went in and they were told, unfortunately, that the house they were looking at that they loved was no longer for sale. Then a volunteer White couple came right behind them and put an offer on the house, and it was accepted. Papers were drawn up. Then, on the day of the closing, the White couple didn't show up; my dad and his lawyer did. The real estate agent knew what he was doing was illegal.

First, he didn't accept it. He actually got angry. In fact, he got up and punched my dad's lawyer in the face and sicced the dog on my dad. A melee broke out. At the end, he was pleading with my father not to move into the neighborhood. He said crazy things like: Your people will not be happy here. Now, this is saying that the neighborhood didn't have things like ''my people,'' but in this country, we are all one people, one Nation, united, and indivisible. There shouldn't be different rules, different laws, and different treatment based on the color of our skin. I can't believe we are talking about this in 2018.

My family, thank God, moved into that house. I grew up in that hometown—a nurturing community, an incredible community that welcomed me and nurtured my brother and me. I am here today because of that kind of activism and people willing to stand up and say something basic and simple: You should not discriminate on the basis of the color of someone's skin.

Part of the reason I grew up where I was is because there was a law that was on my family's side and passed by this body—the Fair Housing Act. I am proud that for years, we Republicans and Democrats have stood up for this basic principle, this basic ideal. An even bigger part of the success of my family and my life is because there were people who didn't just celebrate the passage of a law, didn't just say their work was done, but they remained vigilant, active, and attentive in making sure the law was made real and practiced. They knew protecting America's civil rights was not a one-and-done endeavor but required constant vigilance.

The fact is, we have so much work left to do in this country that it is frustrating. We have a lot of work to do controlling the impact of implicit racial bias. We have people—courageous police officers, courageous activists, and police leadership—talking about the presence of implicit racial bias. I have been pleased that even Republican judges who are nominated, whom I get to interview on the Judiciary Committee, speak to the presence of implicit racial bias in the criminal justice system that often results with people who are charged with a crime, the same circumstances, getting longer sentences just because of the color of their skin.

This is not a partisan issue. This is us working against these issues and these factors of American life and making sure the basic ideal of fairness in American society is upheld. Outside of this body, American people know how implicit racial bias seeps into our criminal justice system, into our workplaces, and into our schools. The question is, What are we going to do about it? Why are we today going out of our way, possibly creating an entirely new congressional precedent, changing advisories into rules that can then be rolled back—why are we doing this on this issue, to roll back guidance that reflects something most of us should be able to agree on?

When an American goes in to buy a car and gets that car financed, the loan terms they get should be based on their creditworthiness—the amount of debt they have—not the color of their skin.

When we have comprehensive studies, empirical tests of literally sending in couples to go buy cars, why are we rolling back guidance that gives suggestions to auto dealers about how to control this? Why would this body, with the history of trying to address racial injustice, roll back a rule that is trying to address and control this practice in auto lending?

If you live in communities like mine, having to pay hundreds extra or $1,000 extra for a car, in a family making $20,000 or $30,000 a year, struggling for that moment that we all know, when you get your car, you get your keys, why should they have to pay more and have it impact on their home, their well-being, their finances, their college savings, and their ability to pay their mortgage? It is unfair. Based on what? Their skin color.

Rolling back this guidance has nothing to do with trimming bureaucracy. It is guidance. It will not help consumers. It will not help Americans of color. It will not help the ideals we swear an oath to—justice for all—and it is certainly not going to help our country to just be a place where working stiffs can get a fair shot at things we think of as the American dream: owning your home, sending your kids to college, and having a car.

At a time when the rest of the country seems to be paying closer attention to issues of discrimination, when we see anti-Semitism on the rise, greater attacks on Muslim Americans, at a time when we are looking at racial issues, why are we doing this now or at any time?

By passing this measure, we will be sending a message to millions of Americans that this body isn't just willfully out of touch but that we are going out of our way to create an environment where this practice is going to thrive, where the practice and the perpetration of discrimination against Americans of color persists in our country.

We should be beyond this. This is a chance, today, where we can make a difference. It may not seem big. We can send a message that these kinds of practices will not be tolerated. We can send a message that every American matters to this body. We can send a message that discrimination and prejudice, implicit or not, will not be tolerated on this soil.

I ask my colleagues, I beseech my colleagues, in the name of an American who is here today because of the Fair Housing Act, because of tests like this, where White couples have said—Black couples have said, ''I am here because of this history,'' why would we turn our backs on that kind of progress and not stand up for basic American fairness?

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, before the Senator from New Jersey leaves the floor, I want to say, this Senator has run into few people who are as articulate and passionate to represent the least among us in our country. I want the Senator from New Jersey to know how grateful I am for his advocacy, for his determination, for his civility, for his passion, and for his heart.

I thank the Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. I thank the Senator. I thank him for modeling that very character to me every day that I serve with him.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, before this sounds like an admiration society, I will say it is genuinely felt.

NOMINATION OF JAMES BRIDENSTINE

Mr. President, what I want to do is talk about the leadership of our civilian space program. Traditionally, the NASA administrator has been well qualified and is not controversial.

NASA is one of the few remaining areas that has largely avoided the bitter partisanship that has invaded far too many areas of government in our society today—until now.

The NASA nominee, Congressman BRIDENSTINE, was nominated to head NASA last fall. His hearing in the Senate Commerce Committee was among the most contentious I have ever been a part of. He was voted out of the committee on party lines, and Senators on both sides of the aisle have expressed doubts, both publicly and privately, to me on his qualifications for the job.

The NASA Administrator should be a consummate space professional. That is what this Senator wants, a space professional, not a politician, as the head of NASA. That space professional ought to be technically and scientifically competent and a skilled executive. More importantly, the Administrator must be a leader who has the ability to bring us together, to unite scientists, engineers, commercial space

interests, policymakers, and the public on a shared vision for future space exploration.

As you know, our goal is going to Mars in the decade of the 2030s. We set the goal first with the Obama administration and now with the Trump administration. What pains me is, I believe the one who has been nominated to head this not partisan, not bipartisan—NASA has always been nonpartisan—agency, I am afraid we are hitting a different standard.

My concern comes from having witnessed very directly the tragic consequence when NASA leadership has failed us.

When it comes to the ultimate frontier of space, there are always going to be risks involved, but the NASA Administrator bears the responsibility, accountability, and the final decision for the lives of astronauts who explore the heavens on behalf of all of us.

I have personally witnessed—in both the Challenger and the Columbia accidents, we learned that engineers at NASA knew of the dangers and tried to sound the alarm, but NASA's management and its structure, while well-intentioned in both of those tragedies, filtered out debate and dissent, and the warnings of the engineers went unheeded with heartbreaking consequences. And so it was, in 1986, with the launch of the Challenger—10 days after this Senator had returned on the 24th flight of the space shuttle to Earth—there was the tragic consequence. Even the engineers out in Provo, UT, who were engineers on the solid rocket boosters, were begging their management the night before the launch to stop the count when they saw on NASA TV the icicles hanging on the launch tower.

We learned later in the investigation, knowing as we now know, that they had received back the solid rocket boosters from previous flights in January, where they saw blow-by of the hot gases past the field joints that were supposed to be sealed with the rubberized gaskets, called O rings, but because of the cold weather, they stiffened and did not seal the field joint, and the hot gases escaped. As the Challenger was traveling into the Florida sky, it hit right at the external tank, punctured the tank, and the crew was lost.

So, too, engineers in 2003 and before and crew members—like one of the best of the best, CAPT Robert Gibson, U.S. Navy, Retired, five-time shuttle astronaut, four-time commander—had pointed out after each flight, examining the orbiter, that it looked as though it had been shredded. In his words: It was as if you had taken a shotgun out and just shot buckshot into the delicate silicon tile. As a result, on launch, on ascent, pieces of the foam of the external tank were falling off and hitting the delicate silicon tiles of the space shuttle orbiter.

Of course, on that fateful day in early February of 2003, that is exactly what happened. A chunk of the insulation foam just about the size of an insulated cooler, on ascent, as the orbiter is accelerating, falls in the acceleration and hits the carbon-carbon fiber of the leading edge of the left wing and knocks a hole in it.

Of course, on ascent to orbit, there is no problem; on orbit, there is no problem. The problem comes after the deorbit burn and after the space shuttle falls for 30 minutes through the vacuum of space and then starts encountering the molecules of air in the upper atmosphere. As those upper atmosphere air molecules hit the underside of the space shuttle, the nose of the space shuttle, and the leading edges of the wing, the temperatures grow to over 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit, and there is a big hole in the leading edge of the left wing. Of course, the left wing burns up, and the crew is destroyed high in the descent over east Texas.

NASA's management structure, well-intentioned, filtered out debate and dissent, did not listen to those astronaut commanders like Hoot Gibson, and did not listen years earlier, in 1985 and 1986, to those engineers at Morton Thiokol. The result is the loss of 2 space shuttles and 14 souls, including on the Space Shuttle *Columbia* in 2003, the first Israeli astronaut, Ilan Ramon.

In the aftermath of *Columbia*, NASA was reorganized so that safety concerns from engineering and safety personnel are not squashed like they were, but instead elevated—ultimately, to whom? To the guy at the top, the NASA Administrator. To make those decisions, the Administrator must draw on all of his or her knowledge of the engineering principles and of space flight, all of his or her experience from managing large technical organizations, and every bit of judgment, reason, and impartiality he or she can muster.

Leading NASA is a job for an experienced and proven space professional. The success or failure of leadership at NASA is, quite literally, a matter of life and death.

I commend Congressman BRIDENSTINE's time as a pilot, and his service to our country in the military is commendable. But it does not qualify him to make the complex and nuanced engineering, safety, and budgetary decisions for which the head of NASA has to be accountable.

Furthermore, Congressman BRIDENSTINE's recent public service career does not instill great confidence about his ability to bring people together. His record of behavior in Congress is as divisive as any in Washington, including his attacks on Members of this body from his own party. It is hard to see how that record will endear him—and, by extension, NASA—to Congress and, most importantly, endear him to the American people.

Finally, given NASA's mission to study the Earth—that is one of NASA's missions—Congressman BRIDENSTINE's past statements on climate change are troubling, to say the least. Particularly in this administration where words like ''science-based'' and ''climate change'' are being scrubbed from government documents and where some scientists have been restricted from speaking publicly about scientific findings, NASA needs an Administrator—a leader, a strong leader—who understands the critical importance of studying the Earth and is willing to put his job on the line to protect NASA's scientists. Congressman BRIDENSTINE's record suggests that he will do otherwise.

I don't come to this decision lightly. I hold nothing against him personally. He is a very likable fellow. My decision is not politically motivated. In fact, I supported the nomination of Chief Financial Officer Jeff DeWit because he was qualified for the job as Chief Financial Officer, and he was confirmed without a problem and is in that job. Of course, if Congressman BRIDENSTINE is, in fact, confirmed, I will work with him for the good of our Nation's space program.

My opposition to this nomination comes from decades of experience and an understanding of NASA's history and having lived through some of its darkest moments.

I have no doubt that the nominee is passionate about our space program, and I don't doubt his motivation or his intentions. What is not right for NASA is an Administrator who is politically divisive and who is not prepared to be the last in line to make that fateful decision on go or no-go for launch. Therefore, I will oppose this nominee.

I yield the floor.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I rise today to voice my strong support for the nomination of Congressman JAMES ''JIM'' BRIDENSTINE to be the next NASA Administrator. On November 1, 2017, the Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee, which I chair, held a confirmation hearing for Congressman BRIDENSTINE's nomination and reported his nomination favorably on November 8, 2017, and again on January 18, 2018.

So far, it has been 1 year and nearly 3 months since this important agency has had a Senate-confirmed Administrator. What is more, NASA's Acting Administrator, Robert Lightfoot, will retire at the end of this month. Congressman BRIDENSTINE's vision, experience, and passion for NASA's vital mission are unquestionable, and I believe that his leadership will not only serve the agency well, but that his confirmation will give NASA the leadership it deserves.

Congressman BRIDENSTINE has an extensive record of both military and public service. In 1998, he began his distinguished military career serving as an aviator in the U.S. Navy. As an Active Duty pilot in the Navy, he flew the E–2C Hawkeye off the USS *Abraham Lincoln* aircraft carrier and deployed for multiple combat missions in Iraq

and Afghanistan. While still on Active Duty, he transitioned to the F–18 Hornet and flew as an ''aggressor'' at the Naval Strike and Air Warfare ''Top Gun'' Center.

After leaving Active Duty in 2007, Congressman BRIDENSTINE returned to Tulsa, OK. He continued his military service in the Navy Reserve, flying counterdrug missions in Central and South America. He is currently a member of the 137th Special Operations Wing of the Oklahoma Air National Guard, where he serves at the rank of major.

In 2012, he was elected to the House of Representatives to represent Oklahoma's First Congressional District.

He currently serves on both the House Armed Services Committee and the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, where he has distinguished himself as a leader on space policy.

In spite of Congressman BRIDENSTINE's exceptional military and public service, some of my colleagues have expressed concerns about his nomination.

With regard to these concerns, I would note that the Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee has received significant bipartisan support from the space community for Congressman BRIDENSTINE's nomination. In fact, over 50 space-related leaders and organizations have submitted letters of support, including Democratic Congressman PERLMUTTER, former NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, and astronaut Buzz Aldrin.

Beyond the support of this diverse group of stakeholders in the space community, Congressman BRIDENSTINE also enjoys the support of his colleagues in the House. On March 20, 2018, more than 60 Members of the House of Representatives, both Republicans and Democrats, signed a letter to Senate leadership requesting that Congressman BRIDENSTINE's nomination move forward in the Senate.

The endorsement of so many stakeholders in the space community and the endorsement of Congressman BRIDENSTINE's colleagues are reflective of the truly bipartisan nature of what Congressman BRIDENSTINE would like to accomplish at NASA. Because of this, I am confident that Congressman BRIDENSTINE's leadership would serve NASA well.

I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I once again rise to express my strong support for the Coast Guard reauthorization bill and the Vessel Incident Discharge Act, which is contained within it. I also wish to thank the, literally, dozens and dozens and pages and pages of organizations that have come forward and said that this is an important piece of legislation for job creation and for those people who want to make a living on our waterways in this vital, vital aspect of our economy.

To pick up on something we were mentioning a few moments ago, not only does this legislation have the support of the chamber of commerce, business associations around the country, and job creation associations around the country, it has the support of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, the International Longshoremen's Association, the International Union of Operating Engineers, and Metal Trades AFL–CIO and Maritime Trades AFL–CIO. I could go on and on, pointing out that this legislation has the support of both labor and management.

I appreciate people of diverse political ideologies coming together on something that is going to make it easier to do commerce in the United States. I just hope we can get the 60 votes we require for consensus here in this body. I know we are close. We have 60 people who have, at one time or another, expressed support for this legislation, and I hope we can come together in a convergence in a few moments when we vote for this.

I want to discuss a couple of misconceptions that keep floating around about the ballast water, incidental water issue.

First, some people are saying that the bill lowers the environmental standards for ballast water. Of course, nothing could be further from the truth. Why would these organizations come forward with this if we are going to lower the standards? The very language of the bill preserves current Federal standards. Also, the bill includes what is already in the law; that is, the Environmental Protection Agency will have a principal role in setting the national standard for ballast water discharge.

The new standards and requirements would be based upon a term of art, and the term of art in the language is ''best available technology economically achievable,'' BATEA. This term comes straight out of our current Clean Water Act. It is already there. But in the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act—which we hope we can bring to the floor in a few moments—the best available technology would be mandated for this new, nationwide standard. This standard would, of course, be enforced by the Coast Guard, but it would be developed by the EPA according to the most stringent, scientifically available standards we could possibly have.

What we are trying to do in this regard is free up commerce—free up working men and women, free up people trying to create more jobs in the maritime industry—from complying with a myriad of different requirements as we go State to State to State. Some 25 different States have a little bit of a nuanced approach to this. As you can imagine, if you are in the barge business or in the maritime business, it is almost impossible to comply with 25 separate standards. This would set one standard across the country, but it would be at the best available technology. So please, don't anyone think this is some sort of lesser technology. This is the best.

According to the very wording of the bill that we are asking the Senate to vote on today, EPA concurrence is required for these regulations to be established. It would not be able to be enforced unless EPA comes in and blesses it. And EPA would have a principal role in developing the proposed regulations.

Let me say a word or two about the Great Lakes. This seems to be a matter of concern and misunderstanding. There is a myth that this somehow harms the Great Lakes. I have to commend the principal author of this legislation and the Senator from Alaska, who is currently occupying the Chair, for being willing to accommodate our friends from the Great Lakes during this process. The Great Lakes gets a little extra treatment in this bill because of concerns they have raised.

Here is what will happen if we pass this bill. All vessels entering the Great Lakes will need to flush their ballast water before entering. The only ballast water then being discharged by Great Lakes vessels will be water that they have taken in from the Great Lakes. They have to flush their ballast tanks before coming in. That is an accommodation we have made to bring our friends from the Great Lakes into this issue. According to this bill, the Coast Guard, in concurrence with the EPA, would be required to establish best management practices specifically tailored to the Great Lakes.

I would just say to my friends, let's talk about the facts, but please don't make up arguments that are not based in fact. This legislation, if it passes—and I still think we have an opportunity to get 60 votes and move on to considering the substance—would use the best scientifically available enforcement possible. It would give our barge folks and our maritime folks just one thing to comply with rather than 25 or 26 or 27 different regulatory schemes. And what do those myriad of schemes do? Every time you have to hire a lawyer or a compliance person, it is money you take out of your bottom line that you would like to use creating a job in America. That is what these people want to do. They want to increase employment for these boilermakers and longshoremen who have endorsed this bill.

I say to my friends, let's not be confused with arguments that have come in in the last week or two that have no basis in fact. This is a bill about strong, strong requirements for the water that, incidentally, has to come out of the ballast tanks, and it is about strong enforcement by the Coast Guard of standards imposed by the EPA according to the best available scientific technology—strong requirements to protect our environment but also to protect jobs and commerce for Americans.

I think we are going to vote in 10 or 11 minutes. I urge my colleagues who have at one time or the other come forward and endorsed this very proposal, please stay with us on this, particularly based on the accommodations the Senator from Alaska has made to make the bill more accommodating and more conclusive of the concerns that have been raised. I urge a ''yes'' vote.

We are going to continue this fight one way or another. This is a day we ought to stand for doing something for commerce, for labor, for business, and in the name of bipartisanship and in the name of rewarding the way we ought to be legislating on the floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in a few minutes, at noon, the Senate will begin the process of voting—two votes. The first of those votes will be a vote on a resolution brought to the Senate by Senator MORAN and Senator TOOMEY to reject a rule proposed by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's 2013 action in which it sought to assert jurisdiction over auto finance guidance. I use the word ''rule'' guardedly, though, because, as you will see from my remarks, this was an end run by the CFPB in two ways. First, the CFPB doesn't have jurisdiction over auto finance. Second, the CFPB did not use the Administrative Procedure Act to adopt a rule; it sought to implement a rule through a process of issuing a guidance to avoid the scrutiny and the legal challenges to its effort to assert this jurisdiction.

It is important that Congress disapprove this guidance because it was an attempt by the CFPB to make substantive policy changes through guidance rather than through the rulemaking process governed by the Administrative Procedure Act. As I said before, it is also an attempt to regulate auto dealers, who were explicitly exempted from CFPB supervision and regulation under the Dodd-Frank act. Finally, it is also a rule that has caused great difficulty and problems in the marketplace, hurting auto dealers and consumers alike.

The CFPB itself, when undertaking this action, admitted what it was doing. The CFPB rejected developing a rule using its statutory authority because the actions it was seeking to regulate are ostensibly those of dealers over whom it has no regulatory authority. It is interesting that even in the CFPB's own documentation of what it was doing, it indicated that it didn't have the authority to do it. So the CFPB decided to develop a guidance, rather than a rule, as a backdoor way to regulate auto dealers.

The CFPB's indirect auto bulletin represents a departure from typical Federal agency practice, as reflected in the GAO's conclusion that its rule is subject to CRA requirements. In other words, in a ruling, the GAO said: Yes, this actually is a rule even though the Administrative Procedure Act wasn't followed. That decision by the GAO gives this Congress the authority to reject the CFPB's actions.

Some of my colleagues on the other side say that disapproving guidance is somehow a loophole we are using because we should only have authority to disapprove a specific rule. The GAO's ruling on the CFPB's guidance clearly puts this within the jurisdiction of this Senate.

I would point my colleagues to a statement from, among others, Senator Reid in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD from 1996 when the Congressional Review Act was passed, explaining what the authors' intent was when passing this legislation. He said: ''[T]he authors are concerned that some agencies have attempted to circumvent notice-and-comment requirements by trying to give legal effect to general statements of policy, 'guidelines,' and agency policy and procedure manuals. The authors admonish the agencies that the APA's broad definition of 'rule' was adopted by the authors of this legislation to discourage circumvention of the requirements'' of it.

As a result of these significant concerns, this resolution has attracted substantial support, including from 14 different organizations involved with helping consumers buy a vehicle, and an endorsement via a Statement of Administration Policy from the White House. The following organizations submitted letters: the Chamber of Commerce, the Credit Union National Association, the Independent Community Bankers of America, the American Bankers Association, the American Financial Services Association, the National Automobile Dealers Association, the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, the National RV Dealers Association, the National Independent Automobile Dealers Association, the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association, the American International Automobile Dealers Association, the National Auto Auction Association, the Motorcycle Industry Council, and the National Federation of Independent Business.

Finally, I would like to respond to the assertion that disapproving this guidance somehow allows auto dealers to discriminate. That is the issue that is at stake here. The reason that Congress did not give the CFPB jurisdiction over auto dealers is that the auto dealers are already subject to the Equal Credit Opportunity Act. If we reject this resolution, the auto dealers will continue to be subject to the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, which will continue to apply to all creditors, which means auto dealers who extend credit will be prohibited from discriminating against customers on the basis of race, sex, age, national origin, marital status, or because one receives public assistance.

In other words, we are not changing the law. We are not taking away any protections in the law. We are stopping a rogue agency from continuing to be able to enforce a rule which it sought to create by avoiding the Administrative Procedure Act.

I urge my colleagues to vote to support this resolution.

Mr. President, I yield my time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be 5 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to the second vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to start the first vote immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 76 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Alexander	Flake	Murkowski
Barrasso	Gardner	Paul
Blunt	Graham	Perdue
Boozman	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hatch	Risch
Capito	Heller	Roberts
Cassidy	Hoeven	Rounds
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Corker	Inhofe	Sasse
Cornyn	Isakson	Scott
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Crapo	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Daines	Lee	Tillis
Enzi	Manchin	Toomey
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Young

NAYS—47

Baldwin	Blumenthal	Brown
Bennet	Booker	Cantwell

Cardin	Jones	Sanders
Carper	Kaine	Schatz
Casey	King	Schumer
Coons	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Smith
Donnelly	Markey	Stabenow
Durbin	McCaskill	Tester
Feinstein	Menendez	Udall
Gillibrand	Merkley	Van Hollen
Harris	Murphy	Warner
Hassan	Murray	Warren
Heinrich	Nelson	Whitehouse
Heitkamp	Peters	Wyden
Hirono	Reed	

NOT VOTING—2

Duckworth	McCain

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 57) was passed, as follows:

S.J. RES. 57

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to ''Indirect Auto Lending and Compliance with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act'' (CFPB Bulletin 2013–02 (March 21, 2013), and printed in the Congressional Record on December 6, 2017, on pages S7888–S7889, along with a letter of opinion from the Government Accountability Office dated December 5, 2017, that the Bulletin is a rule under the Congressional Review Act), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 5 minutes equally divided before the next vote.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Thank you, Madam President and colleagues.

The next vote will be on cloture on a motion to concur with an amendment that is the Coast Guard reauthorization, but with a special provision that I want to draw all my colleagues' attention to, dealing with incidental discharges from vessels.

I am strongly supportive of the Coast Guard reauthorization, but this VIDA provision, as it is known, is extremely troublesome. It impacts both freshwater coasts of the Great Lakes as well as our other coastal regions, and it strips the Environmental Protection Agency of its scientific role in setting standards for discharges and puts the Coast Guard entirely in charge of these decisions and enforcement.

In addition, it strips all of our coastal States of the authority to pass laws concerning the waters off their coasts. Wisconsin is a State that has passed its own water discharge rules. It has done so because we need to protect the greatest fresh drinking water source in the world and in our Nation.

We also have had threats of invasive species that would decimate our Great Lakes. Ballast water and incidental discharges can often be the cause of those invasive species. In addition, there are chemicals that can enter the water if this is not regulated. This is not the time for a one-size-fits-all approach.

We should remove the VIDA provision from the Coast Guard reauthorization, pass the Coast Guard reauthorization on a voice vote because it is absolutely not controversial, and then get to the hard work of doing VIDA the right way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, the title that our colleagues are complaining about in this bill—the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act, or VIDA—has been introduced in the last five Congresses since 2008, several times being led by Democrats.

There have been numerous hearings, meetings, and protracted negotiations regarding VIDA, spanning days, weeks, months, and years. The bill has been passed out of the Commerce Committee two times this year and multiple times in the past always by voice vote.

There are 23 cosponsors, including many from the other side of the aisle—Senators CASEY, NELSON, SCHATZ, MCCASKILL, COONS, and SHAHEEN this year. Other cosponsors of similar past VIDA bills include Senators HIRONO, MARKEY, Pryor, WARREN, COONS, MANCHIN, and Hagan. There have been negotiations with committee members and people off the committee. We have accommodated and accommodated and accommodated so much—I have bent over backward so many times that I can't hardly stand up straight—trying to accommodate concerns that people have on this.

Many of the folks speaking against VIDA have been in those negotiations, very honestly. Some of the friends across the aisle have extracted concession after concession, only to move the goalpost whenever we get close.

Here is a list of some of the changes we have agreed to: State incidental discharge standards remain in place until promulgation of a final Coast Guard rule, allowing at least 2 years during which all the current standards remain in place. Both ballast water and incidental discharge rules will be developed by the Coast Guard in concurrence with the EPA. We respect the EPA's good work in this area and fully anticipate that the Agency will be closely involved every step of the way. States will have the authority to enforce the Federal regulations regarding ballast water and incidental discharges. States will have the authority to require that vessel operators provide ballast water compliance information prior to arrival at a port. States will have the ability to charge existing and new fees for ballast water and incidental discharge inspections.

Madam President, this was a bipartisan bill when it was introduced, and since, we have made numerous changes to accommodate concerns. VIDA preserves environmental protections and allows commerce to move. It has gone through extraordinary debate, process, and input from both sides of the aisle. It is time to pass this bill now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to accompany S. 140, an act to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund, with a further amendment.

Mitch McConnell, John Barrasso, Roy Blunt, Johnny Isakson, Todd Young, Tom Cotton, Tim Scott, Roger F. Wicker, Cory Gardner, John Thune, Jerry Moran, John Hoeven, Lamar Alexander, Pat Roberts, Mike Crapo, Jeff Flake, John Boozman.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 140, with amendment No. 2232, offered by the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. MCCONNELL, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 77 Leg.]

YEAS—56

Alexander	Flake	Murkowski
Barrasso	Gardner	Nelson
Blunt	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Perdue
Burr	Hatch	Portman
Capito	Heitkamp	Risch
Casey	Heller	Roberts
Cassidy	Hoeven	Rounds
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Corker	Inhofe	Sasse
Cornyn	Isakson	Scott
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Crapo	Jones	Sullivan
Cruz	Kennedy	Thune
Daines	Lankford	Tillis
Donnelly	Lee	Toomey
Enzi	Manchin	Wicker
Ernst	McCaskill	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Feinstein	McConnell
Bennet	Gillibrand	Menendez
Blumenthal	Harris	Merkley
Booker	Hassan	Murphy
Brown	Heinrich	Murray
Cantwell	Hirono	Peters
Cardin	Kaine	Reed
Carper	King	Sanders
Coons	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Schumer
Durbin	Markey	Shaheen

Smith	Udall	Warren
Stabenow	Van Hollen	Whitehouse
Tester	Warner	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Duckworth McCain

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays 42.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of JAMES BRIDENSTINE, of Oklahoma, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Johnny Isakson, James Lankford, Steve Daines, Mike Crapo, John Kennedy, John Barrasso, John Thune, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, James M. Inhofe, Richard Burr, Mike Rounds, Shelley Moore Capito, Tom Cotton, Cory Gardner.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of JAMES BRIDENSTINE, of Oklahoma, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 78 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Daines	Isakson
Barrasso	Enzi	Johnson
Blunt	Ernst	Kennedy
Boozman	Fischer	Lankford
Burr	Flake	Lee
Capito	Gardner	McConnell
Cassidy	Graham	Moran
Collins	Grassley	Murkowski
Corker	Hatch	Paul
Cornyn	Heller	Perdue
Cotton	Hoeven	Portman
Crapo	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Cruz	Inhofe	Roberts
Rounds	Shelby	Toomey
Rubio	Sullivan	Wicker
Sasse	Thune	Young
Scott	Tillis	

NAYS—48

Baldwin	Hassan	Nelson
Bennet	Heinrich	Peters
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Jones	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Coons	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Udall
Donnelly	McCaskill	Van Hollen
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Harris	Murray	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Duckworth McCain

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 48.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of JAMES BRIDENSTINE, of Oklahoma, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

NOMINATION OF CARLOS MUNIZ

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, later this afternoon, the Senate will finally vote to confirm Carlos Muniz—a well-qualified nominee—to be general counsel at the U.S. Department of Education.

I came to the floor last week to ask for this vote because I believe Mr. Muniz has been subject to unreasonable delays. For example, Mr. Muniz was nominated by the President on June 6th of last year—316 days ago. He has been pending on the floor since we reported him out of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee on October 18, 2017—182 days ago. In other words, he has been waiting for 6 months, following his approval by the relevant committee, for the Senate to consider this nomination. So it is time to confirm him. It is time to give Secretary DeVos an attorney and a general counsel.

Mr. Muniz has extensive experience as an attorney and in government. From January 2014 to February 2018, he was a partner at the law firm of McGuireWoods in Florida.

Prior to that, from January 2011 to 2014, he was Deputy Attorney General for the State of Florida and Chief of Staff to Attorney General Pam Bondi. There, he managed a 400-lawyer agency and oversaw all functions, including litigation, policy development, legislative affairs, and communications. He was also General Counsel for Florida's Department of Financial Services and Deputy General Counsel for Governor Jeb Bush.

Mr. Muniz graduated from the University of Virginia with high honors. He earned his law degree from Yale, where he was an editor of the Yale Law Journal. After law school, he served as a law clerk to two Federal judges, one on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the other for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. In other words, he is exactly the kind of person that we hope would serve in public life.

I am delighted that he chose to accept the President's nomination and that we will have a chance this afternoon to confirm him.

As general counsel, he will have the important job of providing legal assistance to the Secretary concerning the programs and policies of the Department and making sure that these policies follow the law, which given his background, he has the experience to do.

He testified in his confirmation hearing that he is committed to advising the Secretary to follow the law as Congress wrote it.

I am glad we are having this vote today. I support his nomination. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Texas for his courtesy in allowing me to speak before him.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Carlos G. Muniz, of Florida, to be General Counsel, Department of Education.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 1 hour of debate on the nomination, equally divided between the Senator from New York or her designee and the Senator from Tennessee or his designee.

The majority whip.

REMEMBERING BARBARA BUSH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it is with sadness that I come to the Senate floor to speak about former First Lady Barbara Bush on her passing yesterday. Of course, she was the wife of our 41st President and the mother of our 43rd President.

My wife Sandy and I have wonderful memories of Mrs. Bush flying around the State of Texas with us during my campaign for attorney general. That the former First Lady of the United States was so willing to embark on this long day of campaigning speaks to her generosity and her devotion to causes she believed in. With her, we always felt like we were flying in first class.

Many kind things have already been said about the First Lady's sharp wit and her sense of humor, her efforts to improve child literacy, and her faith and loyalty to family and friends; and all of those are true. I will not try to top those statements. I will simply say what all of us are feeling today: sad

and a little bit emptier as a nation, missing her honor, dignity, and respectability.

NOMINATION OF MIKE POMPEO

Mr. President, later today I have the honor of meeting with the Director of the CIA, Mike Pompeo, who has been nominated by the President of the United States to become America's chief diplomat, the U.S. Secretary of State. I am looking forward to catching up with the Director about several global challenges and his priorities as the next Secretary of State.

What confounds me as I stand here today is that many of our Democratic colleagues have made his nomination a partisan wedge issue. Diplomacy, which is what the State Department does, is supposed to be about bringing people together, not driving them apart. But sowing discord is what some partisans seem content on doing when it comes to Director Pompeo's nomination, and it is a shame.

With the growing number of threats around the world, with heightened tension in North Korea and Syria, it is clear that we need an intelligent, qualified person in that position. It is time to put partisan politics aside and to confirm this nomination. There is no good reason why we shouldn't be able to do that. After all, the editorial board at the Washington Post argued persuasively that Director Pompeo should be confirmed. Fourteen Democrats supported him when the Senate voted last year to approve his nomination to lead the CIA.

Back then, our colleague, the senior Senator from Virginia, said that he believed Pompeo would be an ''effective leader of the CIA at a time when the Agency is facing many challenges.''

The junior Senator from Virginia added that Pompeo ''has a keen understanding of the CIA's role'' and was ''knowledgeable about our Nation's cyber threats.''

Those seem like pretty nice compliments and pretty accurate assessments to me.

But now some Democrats are saying they oppose Pompeo's nomination for the State Department. On what grounds? Is the CIA any less important a job than the State Department? To be for Director Pompeo as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and against him for Secretary of State seems to be unreconcilable.

Some have attempted to justify their opposition saying that he is somehow anti-diplomacy, but that claim is frankly false.

We just heard last night of the news of Director Pompeo's trip to North Korea. Two Democratic Senators from Connecticut praised the groundwork that was being laid, saying they were ''glad'' that preparations were being made for upcoming negotiations on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and that this is the sort of diplomatic effort on the part of Pompeo that is undoubtedly welcome.

I agree with those comments. It is important to make sure that we exhaust all efforts to a diplomatic resolution on the Korean Peninsula, rather than see an armed conflict with so many innocent lives lost and so much bloodshed. So I applaud Director Pompeo and this administration for taking the diplomatic avenue so seriously and making that trip, laying the groundwork for the President's negotiation with Kim Jong Un.

That raises the question: How possibly could Director Pompeo, in light of this news, be the warmongering, anti-diplomatic caricature that some Democrats have painted him to be? It is just not true. The Director's trip is not the only thing that established his diplomatic credibility.

I have spoken about Director Pompeo's credentials on several occasions in the past. As we know, he graduated first in his class at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he was an engineer. He served in the U.S. Army, earning the rank of captain, and he served as a cavalry officer in various parts of the world.

When he went to law school, he graduated at the top of his class and practiced at a prestigious law firm. Then he went into business, founding an aerospace company, and later ran for the House of Representatives from his home State in Kansas.

Those that know Mike know that ''brash,'' ''impulsive,'' and ''reckless'' are not words you would ever use to describe him. He is not somebody looking to pick a fight with dangerous regimes or to flex military muscle unnecessarily.

Actually, Director Pompeo is careful, thoughtful, and deliberate. He listens, he studies, and he gets along with people. Above all, he has the sort of experience we need in our next Secretary of State.

It is true that he has military experience, but that doesn't predispose him to military conflict as the best way to resolve our disputes with other countries—to the contrary. And he has much more than just that experience.

He served honorably on the House Intelligence Committee, and he has now served at the CIA for more than 1 year. So he has that vital intelligence background.

As I said, he worked in law and business. So he understands the role of civil society and public institutions and building the durable rule of law in countries unlike our own.

I hope our colleagues will remember these qualities in the days ahead, and I hope Director Pompeo will be confirmed on the floor in short order. It would be a grave mistake for this body to fail to confirm the next Secretary of State, particularly leading up to the important negotiations with regard to the nuclear weapons capacity of the North Korean regime. The likelihood that it could be resolved short of armed conflict should encourage all of us to continue to support those diplomatic efforts and to support Director Pompeo as the next diplomat in chief.

TAX REFORM

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to speak again about tax day, which, of course, was yesterday. I know so many Texans are saying: Thank goodness it is over.

We heard a collective groan across the country as people jumbled together all the paperwork and mailed their returns or delivered them to the IRS.

The good news is that the worst is behind us. As the majority leader wrote recently, there is ''a silver lining—simply put, it is 'out with the old and in with the new.' ''

Yesterday is the last time American families will have to file under the unfair, convoluted, and outdated Tax Code that Congress and the President got rid of a few months ago.

Unfortunately, none of our Democratic colleagues supported the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act—none. All of them voted no in lockstep. Every single Democrat in the House and every single Democrat in the Senate voted to block tax cuts for working families. They voted against doubling the standard deduction. They voted against doubling the child tax credit. They voted to maintain the U.S. corporate rate as the highest business tax rate in the industrialized world—all to our detriment and all to contribute to slow economic growth and a lack of hope for so many people looking for work and hoping to pursue their dreams.

Well, some of our colleagues yesterday met on the stairs out in front on the Capitol, and they said that not only did they vote no when it came to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, but now they want to repeal those tax cuts. That is right. They came together unanimously and said: We want to raise your taxes, killing the nascent economic recovery we have seen, which has gotten people so excited and has caused consumer confidence to be at an all-time high.

We have seen what has happened to the stock market and to people's 401(k)s, pensions, and retirement savings. People have a spring in their step once more when it comes to their job prospects and bringing home more take-home pay.

Our colleagues across the aisle voted against a $2,000 tax cut for a family of four making $73,000. They simply have ignored the fact that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act doubled the standard deduction, making sure that for a married couple, their first $24,000 of income earned was tax free. They ignored the fact that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act doubled the child tax credit from $1,000 to $2,000, allowing many more parents to claim it and helping working families.

Our Democratic colleagues who voted no ignore the fact that the law eliminates the individual mandate tax, which disproportionately hits low-income families. Worst of all, our colleagues who insist on voting no to

these reforms seem so driven by ideology and by a devotion to big government that they aren't actually listening to the American people.

Well, I have listened to my constituents, and every time I do, I learn something new. Every week I hear from Texans who explain how they are putting the new savings from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to good use.

One retired and disabled soldier named William Alderman says he lives on a fixed income and has seen it go up under the changes made to the Tax Code. He said he thinks the law will have ''lasting impact,'' and he said ''thank you.'' He said: ''God bless Texas and America.''

Another Texan, a retired Air Force colonel from Brownsville named David Teigen said the benefits sure felt like a lot more than just ''crumbs'' to him.

A third, Donnie Connell, from San Antonio, my hometown, said the tax law will result in close to $4,000 worth of savings this year. Donnie is trying to make a better life for his family, and he called the reforms a ''HUGE DEAL.'' When he said ''HUGE DEAL,'' it was in all caps, I might add.

Our Democratic colleagues are so quick to dismiss or ignore normal, hard-working people like Donnie with the same old tired talking points and ideology because doing so is easier than actually doing the hard work of coming together on a bipartisan basis and passing legislation.

When they do this, they like to talk about corporations. According to their rationale, the 505 companies that have announced pay raises, bonuses, 401(k) match increases, cuts to utility rates, and other benefits aren't really helping the average worker; they are just somehow lining their own pockets. They seem to ignore that our old Tax Code ranked among the highest in the developed world and was an impediment to investment and the return of money earned abroad here to create new jobs and to build companies here so people could work and provide for their families and pursue their dreams. Instead, they say that stock buybacks, for example, which some companies have opted for, in part, reward corporate executives and well-off shareholders rather than workers.

The Senator from New York, the minority leader, has made those comments a number of times, which reflects a basic misunderstanding. Our colleague from Massachusetts has said that buybacks ''create a sugar high for corporations.'' But none other than Warren Buffett—one of the most famous investors in the world and a Democrat—disagrees. He and others understand that it is oftentimes irresponsible for companies to sit on large amounts of cash. They need to put it to work for their shareholders, grow the business, improve stock values.

If companies buy back stock, shareholders can then go and invest the money in another company that might have had something better to do with it, a company that has something greater to build or innovate and needs money to get the project off the ground. As one economist said, when it comes to buybacks, the money ''doesn't go into a black hole. It goes into a financial market somewhere . . . [and then] a chain of events'' leads to higher wages and higher productivity.

So as we hear and continue to spread the true stories about tax reform, let's remember men and women like Donnie Connell for whom the savings are literally a huge deal, and let's ignore the delusional, ideological arguments that have already been disproved. Let's keep finding ways to make the economy stronger and more dynamic, one characterized by more jobs, higher wages, and falling unemployment.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the Muniz nomination occur at 4:30 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to urge my colleagues to vote against the nomination of Carlos Muniz to be the Department of Education's general counsel.

The Department of Education's primary responsibility is to help schools educate our students and prepare them to be successful in life. A good education can open doors of opportunity for children who may not have thought that their dreams were possible, and a good education can lift millions of families out of poverty and into the middle class. That is certainly what a good education did for me and for my family.

As many working families are struggling today, we should be working to make sure every child can attend a good public school in their own neighborhood. We need to do more to ensure that every student who wants to attend college can afford it, graduate, and find a good-paying job and is not saddled with a mountain of debt. It is critical that every student, no matter what age, learn in a safe environment, free from discrimination, harassment, and violence.

This should be at the core of our Nation—that everyone has the right to a high-quality education, no matter where they live or how they learn or how much money their parents make.

As general counsel to the Department of Education, Mr. Muniz would be responsible for providing legal advice and assistance to Secretary DeVos. Her first year in office has shown how much she needs it.

Secretary DeVos continues to push her extreme privatization agenda even though millions of students, parents, and teachers have stood up and rejected it.

Despite bipartisan agreement in Congress on our Nation's K–12 law, the Every Student Succeeds Act, Secretary DeVos is approving State plans that do not comply with all of ESSA's guardrails—guardrails that were agreed to by Republicans and Democrats in Congress to help ensure that no student falls through the cracks.

Secretary DeVos has rolled back protections for students and student loan borrowers, making it easier for predatory, for-profit colleges to take advantage of students.

Time and again, she has failed to uphold civil rights protections for students. She has tried to scale back the Office for Civil Rights, opened the doors for schools to once again discriminate against transgender students, and rolled back guidance for schools on how to investigate campus sexual assault. Especially in this moment when more and more women are coming forward and sharing their stories of harassment and assault, there is no excuse for those in power to attempt to sweep their stories under the rug. By rolling back this guidance, Secretary DeVos allowed schools to put the burden back on survivors. By making it harder for them to trust they will be believed, I am concerned that fewer women will come forward.

Mr. President, it is clear that Secretary DeVos needs an independent general counsel who will stand up to her when laws are being bent or broken. I am afraid Mr. Muniz has failed to convince me that is the kind of general counsel he would be.

He worked for a for-profit college company that preyed upon students and cheated them out of their education and their savings. He has a record of putting politics before students. He worked for the Florida attorney general, who came under fire for accepting a political donation from President Trump at the very time she decided against investigating Trump University—a sham university that defrauded countless students by promising them everything and leaving them with nothing.

Although Mr. Muniz and the Florida attorney general didn't stand up for students who were misled and defrauded by President Trump, many other States sued. Just last week—8 years after Trump University closed its doors—the $25 million settlement the President agreed to pay to his victims was finalized, meaning some of those cheated by the President will now start seeing relief. However, Mr. Muniz's involvement in the Trump University case gives me great concern that at the Department of Education, he will once again not stand up for student loan borrowers defrauded by other predatory for-profit colleges.

I am afraid Mr. Muniz at the Department of Education will only be more of the same. For those reasons, I will be voting against his nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

NOMINATION OF JAMES BRIDENSTINE

Mr. President, while I am here, I want to briefly comment on another nominee who is being considered today

by the Senate, and that is Representative BRIDENSTINE. Since he was nominated to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, I have been expressing very strong and very serious concerns, and I wanted to come to the floor today to once again call on my colleagues to reject this nomination and to call on President Trump to send us a nominee who is worthy of the great legacy and incredible potential of our civil space program.

My deep concerns with Representative BRIDENSTINE fall into two categories. The first is his fitness for leadership of an agency that is seeped in science, given his clear lack of understanding of basic scientific issues, and the second is his ability to lead an inclusive and forward-looking agency, given his history of hateful, demeaning, and divisive comments and positions.

First, let me talk about his fitness to lead this agency. NASA is an agency that is committed to science, exploration, technology, and innovation. Over the years, it has employed some of the most brilliant scientists in the world focused on the most cutting-edge research, with an eye toward exploring new frontiers, expanding human knowledge, and increasing our understanding of this world and beyond. It was this commitment to science and innovation that allowed NASA to catch up with the Russians and launch a satellite into space. It was this openness to innovation that allowed NASA to cast humanity's eyes with greater clarity than ever before far beyond our solar system with the launch of the Hubble telescope. It was this focus on innovation and exploration that allowed NASA to put a man on the Moon—12 of them, in fact. The list goes on.

Without a commitment to science, NASA would not have succeeded, and if that doesn't continue, it will fail. That is why I am very concerned that Representative BRIDENSTINE not only is not committed to science, he flat-out rejects clear scientific consensus. As I have said before, in a June 2013 speech he delivered on the floor of the House of Representatives, Representative BRIDENSTINE repeated the debunked claim that ''global temperatures stopped rising 10 years ago,'' and a March 2013 tweet from him failed to recognize the difference between local weather conditions and the broader planetary climate. That is a basic scientific concept.

Those are just a couple of examples. This may be just one issue, but it is very telling. I believe that Representative BRIDENSTINE's failure to accept fundamental scientific truths about Earth's climate will make him an ill-suited and dangerous choice to lead an agency with science at its core.

Second is my concern about his ability to lead an inclusive and forward-looking agency, given his history of hateful, demeaning, and divisive comments and positions. I have noted this before, but it bears repeating.

Representative BRIDENSTINE has openly expressed his opposition to the rights of LGBTQ individuals, of immigrants, and of women. In May 2013, he gave a speech and suggested that LGBTQ people were immoral. He said: ''Some of us in America still believe in the concept of sexual morality.'' In response to the Supreme Court's marriage equality ruling in 2013, he stated that he would keep fighting for ''traditional marriage.'' Representative BRIDENSTINE has a history of supporting anti-Muslim groups and has consistently defended a number of President Trump's discriminatory policies on immigration, including the Muslim travel ban. He even defended President Trump's comments about sexually assaulting women, saying they were ''locker room talk.'' He has gone on shows and stages to stand with bigots and racists—not to debate them but to agree with them. And that list goes on.

Representative BRIDENSTINE is not someone who should be put in charge of NASA's diverse workforce. In 2016, NASA announced that for the very first time, fully half of their new astronaut trainees were women. I mentioned before that NASA has sent 12 men to the Moon. Well, we may be on track for a woman to be the first American to plant her feet on Mars.

At a moment in our history where we want every student in this country—every one of them—to dream big dreams and to strive for high goals and explore careers in science, technology, engineering, and math, regardless of where they are from or whom they love or what color their skin is, sending someone like Representative BRIDENSTINE to lead our Nation's space agency would send the absolute wrong signal and move our country in the absolute wrong direction. So I will be voting against that nomination, and I will be strongly encouraging our colleagues to do so as well.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

(The remarks of Mr. MERKLEY pertaining to the introduction of S. 2708 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. MERKLEY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF JAMES BRIDENSTINE

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise to support the upcoming confirmation this week of my friend JIM BRIDENSTINE to be Administrator of NASA.

We are now in our second year without a Senate-confirmed Administrator of NASA. Not only has that been bad for the United States, but it is also bad for the commercial space industry, NASA, and all of us who prioritize restoring and strengthening America's leadership in space. NASA needs a strong leader, and it will have that strong leader in JIM BRIDENSTINE.

I serve as the chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee's Space Subcommittee, and I am proud and deeply gratified that President Trump chose to nominate Representative JIM BRIDENSTINE to lead NASA. I can think of very few people I know who are more inspirational than Jim. Unfortunately, throughout Representative BRIDENSTINE's confirmation process, we have seen cynical politicians attempting to malign his character, despite the fact that he has spent his entire adult life in public service.

JIM BRIDENSTINE is a veteran and a war hero. He is a man of deep character and deep integrity. Having served our Nation in combat as a fighter pilot, he earned the respect of the men and women who served under his command.

Representative BRIDENSTINE's combat missions included airborne battlefield command and control and tactical air control flights in support of the liberation of Iraq, controlling over 180 kill box interdiction and close-air support missions, resulting in the destruction of countless tanks, armored vehicles, and time-sensitive fixed targets.

Representative BRIDENSTINE later transitioned to the F/A–18 Hornet while on Active Duty, serving at the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center, TOPGUN command, where he flew both the E–2 and F28. There, he received fitness reports from his commanding officers, which rated him as ''the number one Hawkeye pilot and weapons and tactic instructor'' and ''the most tactically skilled pilot in the E–2 community.'' That is a remarkable record, and it is one that has been followed by honorable and distinguished service in the U.S. Congress.

Throughout my time in the Senate, I have been blessed to meet with a number of astronauts. It is worth noting that quite a number of those astronauts at NASA have backgrounds very similar to that of Representative BRIDENSTINE. He will be able to lead them as one who has served in missions similar to the ones they have served in and are serving now. I have no doubt he will be an effective leader of NASA and will work to ensure the safety of the men and women who step forward to save our country; that he will work to lead NASA in a way to ensure that America continues to lead in space, and, in particular, that NASA and the commercial space sector, working hand in hand, will move forward to implement the bipartisan commitment this Congress has made that man will go back to space and go to Mars and that, in particular, the first foot that sets on the soil of Mars will be an American astronaut landing to explore that next frontier.

I urge my colleagues to put aside partisan politics. If this vote were on the merits, Representative BRIDENSTINE should be confirmed 100 to 0 on the merits. I urge my colleagues to come together so we can have a strong leader of NASA, an honorable war hero, and a leader who will lead space exploration going forward.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. President, I also rise to join Israel and the Jewish people to celebrate Israel Independence Day.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the modern State of Israel. On Friday, May 14, 1948, Israel's founding father, David Ben-Gurion, brought together members of the Jewish People's Council in the Tel Aviv Museum. By then, the Zionist movement to rebirth the Jewish state had been at work for decades.

Ben-Gurion stood underneath a portrait of the pioneer of that movement, Theodor Herzl, and described the historic right of the Jewish people to the land of Israel.

The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spirit, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.

After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom.

That writing had been recognized by the international community, he said, and declared the founding of the modern State of Israel. He also said:

We, members of the People's Council, representatives of the Jewish community of Eretz-Israel and of the Zionist Movement, are here assembled on the day of the termination of the British Mandate over Eretz-Israel and, by virtue of our natural and historic right and on the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz-Israel to be known as the State of Israel.

Eleven minutes after Ben-Gurion made his declaration, and over the objection of many of his advisers and the State Department, President Harry S. Truman courageously recognized the State of Israel. I am sorry it took us a full 11 minutes to do so.

Meanwhile, armies from five Arab States declared war and invaded, in an attempt to destroy the new state. Despite being outgunned and outnumbered, Israel would prevail.

The Israeli victory might not have happened without heroic soldiers who had recently returned from World War II, including Jewish Americans volunteering to go and help. Some volunteers provided badly needed weapons, others offered military experience, and some fought.

In 1951, then serving as Israel's first Prime Minister, Ben-Gurion established Israel's Memorial Day, which takes place the day before Israel Independence Day and which commemorates those killed in the wars and the terror campaigns waged against Israel.

From Tuesday to Wednesday evening, Israel came to a complete standstill in honor of the 23,646 Israelis who have fallen in wars, and the 3,134 terrorist victims since 1860. I stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel in commemoration.

It has been seven decades since Prime Minister Ben-Gurion made his historic declaration of independence and President Truman gave his historic recognition, and I am proud to say that America continues to stand unshakably with our allies.

On December 6, 2017, President Trump rightly recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and announced that the U.S. Embassy would be moving to Jerusalem, implementing the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 that was adopted overwhelmingly by Congress. I have long advocated and supported the United States to take these two actions which are required to rectify a historic injustice.

Jerusalem has been the eternal capital of the Jewish people for over 3,000 years and the capital of the Jewish state since its founding in 1948.

I recently introduced a resolution reaffirming the deep connection between the Jewish people and Jerusalem and denouncing efforts at UNESCO that have attempted to rewrite historic truth and to erase from history undeniable facts. I am also proud my home State of Texas adopted legislation on Israel Independence Day last year to combat the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions, the BDS movement. On May 14, 2018, exactly seven decades since President Truman recognized Israel, the United States will finally and formally recognize as much and open our Embassy in Jerusalem.

I, along with many millions across our Nation and across the world, look forward to that day, and we stand in alliance and solidarity with the people of Israel, celebrating the great friendship, the great national security alliance between two great nations.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JOHN A. WILLIAMS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, the Senate is a great place. It is a great honor to be able to speak here, whether you are discussing your beliefs on an issue of major importance, honoring a friend, or, on rare occasions but all too often when you get to be my age, paying tribute to someone who has given so much and passed away.

Such happened in my State this past Monday, on the 16th of April, when John A. Williams died. He was 74 years old.

John Williams was a giant in every way in our State. He was a giant entrepreneur. He founded two great companies, one of them called Post Properties, the largest apartment REIT on the New York Stock Exchange. He started it in 1993 and built it to new heights.

Most recently, a few years ago, he started PAC, Preferred Apartment Communities, a REIT also, and he did the same with it—employing thousands of people, building thousands of units for housing in America.

He set the pace of housing in his career. I don't know how many people have noticed that in the suburbs of all major cities today, office parks and apartment complexes of any size are now some of the most beautifully landscaped places in the community. Thirty years ago, nobody planted a stick. Nobody planted a shrub. Nobody planted a flower.

John Williams became the largest importer of Holland bulbs in the United States of America. Every spring, tulips blossomed at Post Properties apartment buildings. In fact, he changed the advertising mode for apartments. Instead of calling them apartments, he called them apartment homes because he wanted his apartments and all the rental units to be looked upon by the people who lived there as their home. He sold that concept and built that concept and replicated it over and over, and it became the standard in Georgia. I have traveled the country, and it has become the standard all over the country in terms of apartment houses and landscaping for major commercial properties.

He was a great entrepreneur, building two great companies and helping thousands of other people in many other ways to build their companies.

He was a great father, a great husband, and a great family man. His wife Nancy is a wonderful ''first lady'' in our community. Parker, Sarah Brook, and Jay, his children, are all great contributors to our community. They all know how lucky they are to have had such a great father.

He was a great sportsman. When I say a great sportsman, I mean a great sportsman. He built Ranger, a replica of the 1937 America's Cup winner, one of the biggest yachts in the world, and sailed the world on that yacht and won races all around.

Also as a sportsman, he was a minority owner of the Atlanta Falcons. He invested with Arthur Blank in the Atlanta Falcons. They almost got to the Super Bowl—they got to the Super Bowl; they just couldn't finish the drill with the Patriots. One day we are going to figure out a way to do that, and I hope, in memory of John, we will be able to do it for him.

John was a community man. Who have you ever heard of in your lifetime who, in the same lifetime, was president of two different competing chambers of commerce, next door to each other? He was twice the president of

the DeKalb County Chamber of Commerce. While running Post Properties and PAC communities, while doing all of the things he did with his family, while racing his boat and owning the Falcons, he built two great chambers of commerce and sought others to come to the communities where he was prospering and helped build their businesses. Then he became president of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. The Atlanta and DeKalb County Chambers of Commerce are the one and two largest chambers in our State. Instead of fighting each other, he brought them together.

He was a builder, he was a giant, but also a broker of common interests. He found the good in every opportunity and tried to sell the good and forget about the bad. He tried to bring out the best in everybody. I never made a deal with John Williams or saw a deal that he had made—I never saw anybody leave the closing table who didn't feel good. His knack was to be sure that if you left the closing table and you had a check, you felt good about it, and if you had just written a check, you felt good about it. He wasn't a win-lose person, he was a win-win person, and that is why he was such a great businessman and such a great entrepreneur.

He was a great friend and a giant of a friend to me. I met him 50 years ago next month.

This may sound funny, but it is a great story. He worked for the Georgia Power Company, and I worked for a small real estate company called Northside Realty Associates. Our first two jobs—his with Georgia Power and mine with Northside—were to hold open the total electric house of the year in 1967. That meant that we drew the last straw, and every night, from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m., we held the houses open in hopes that someone would come to look at them. The electric utilities hoped someone would build a totally electric house. It was a marketing tool. It was the first time they had ever done it, and we enjoyed doing it and I got to know John.

I remember the nights when John talked about what he wanted to be, how he wanted to build a company, how he wanted to be an entrepreneur, how he wanted to be a real estate developer, and how he wanted to make things better. We got to be good friends. In fact, I sold him a 4-acre piece of land where he built the house he lived in for years before he built the home he was in today. I participated with him in another real estate transaction he did and helped him with some of the properties he put together. I always found him to be a win-win guy.

He was my friend, he was my supporter, and he was my confidante. He was also my greatest critic. Every politician in America should be lucky enough to have a John Williams, because John will tell you what you want to hear, but he tells you what you don't want to hear. When you are on the wrong track, he will straighten you out.

Sure, he could write checks all day long. But the Presiding Officer and I know that it is not just the checks that they write. It is the advice they give, and it is the passions they have. When you find somebody who has a passion for their family, a passion for building businesses, a passion for their community, and a passion for everything that is good about America, you have found somebody you want to keep close to you. For 50 years, I stayed close to John Williams.

When I got the news about John Williams before I boarded a plane on Monday to come up here, I started crying—that is how close he was to me—but so did everybody else I ran into that day or have talked to on the phone since being back home. Everybody misses John and was shocked by his going. But realizing the troubles and the difficulties that he had had in recent years—back surgeries and things of that nature—and realizing, like all of us do at that age, when you are 74, which I am, that you know time is running out. You just don't know how fast it is running out. But it is a good example of how you always want to be ready whenever that day comes and know the legacy you left was a better legacy than the one you inherited.

John was a man of modest means at his birth. When he graduated from high school in the public schools of Georgia and went to the Georgia Institute of Technology—better known as Georgia Tech—he graduated with debt and a modest means but with great values and great principles.

The story about the flowers was all because of his mom, who wanted to landscape everything and make it look pretty and beautiful—proof that it didn't take a lot of money to make things look good; it took a lot of heart.

I am sad today, and all of Georgia is sad today, and they will be even sadder on Monday when we say good-bye to John Williams. But all of us should hope and all of us should pray that all of us have the time in our lives to know somebody as good, as decent, as honorable, and as compassionate for their community and as a lover of their country as John A. Williams of Atlanta, GA, my good friend.

God bless you, John, and God bless the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

NOMINATION OF JAMES BRIDENSTINE

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I am here to join Ranking Member NELSON and my colleagues to voice my opposition to JAMES BRIDENSTINE, who has been nominated to be the next Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

NASA is an agency that has been at the center of our Nation's modern history and impacts the daily lives of millions of Americans. The world watched in awe as Neil Armstrong took that first step onto the surface of the Moon in July of 1969, wearing a NASA patch on his spacesuit. Today, we marvel at photos of Pluto's surface, captured by NASA's New Horizons mission in July of 2015. From the closest to the farthest reaches of our own solar system, NASA is always there.

NASA is at a critical point in its history, and that is because the United States is poised to unleash the next great feat of human innovation as we look to unlock the true possibilities of space. To accomplish these goals, we need a solid foundation, and that starts and ends with the science conducted at NASA every single day. NASA's mission involves not just revealing faraway worlds but investigating the realities of our own. In order to truly do that, we need continued scientific research of the highest caliber.

The scientists working at NASA today are among the very best in the world. NASA, in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, produces and analyzes the most robust data we have on our planet's changing climate. The OCO–3 program monitors Earth's atmospheric carbon levels. The CLARREO Pathfinder mission measures Earth's atmospheric heat. The Deep Space Climate Observatory satellite provides our scientists comprehensive data sets that are crucial to understanding the vast changes that are underway on our own planet this very second.

On NASA's website right now, there is a web page entitled ''Scientific Consensus: Earth's Climate is Warming.'' On this web page, based on NASA's vast collection of data, it continues, ''The impacts of climate change are already occurring. Sea levels are rising, and snow and ice cover is decreasing. . . . The warming climate likely will cause more floods, droughts and heat waves. The heat waves may get hotter, and hurricanes may get stronger.'' Those are NASA's words, and we know them to be true because science has proved it.

NASA's science is the gold standard. Its scientific work is crucial to our understanding the threat that climate change poses to our Nation, our economy, and the health of all Americans and people around the world. But Houston, we have a problem. NASA's science, NASA's missions, and American leadership will all be in serious jeopardy if JAMES BRIDENSTINE is confirmed to be the next Administrator of NASA. Under his leadership, NASA would come to stand for ''not accepting scientific advice.''

Congressman BRIDENSTINE's record is one of questioning climate change and undermining science. He has repeatedly questioned the scientific consensus and the threats of climate change. Before changing his website, it stated: ''Global warming theories should not drive national energy policy without clearer evidence.'' Global warming isn't theory; it is based on science. Unfortunately, Mr. BRIDENSTINE's words do not reflect the accepted science behind climate change, including the very

science that NASA has been collecting and needs to continue to collect.

Under President Trump, we know that fear is rampant across the Federal Government among scientists. It is no surprise that the environmental and scientific communities across the country are asking that we vote down Congressman BRIDENSTINE's nomination based on his voting record and his clear denial of accepted science. If Mr. BRIDENSTINE is confirmed as the Administrator of NASA, he will bring that fear to its scientists at a time when we need them more than ever.

It is not only his views on science that make him unsuitable to lead NASA. NASA's workforce is comprised of more than 18,000 workers who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer. NASA has officially stated that ''diversity and inclusion are integral to mission success.'' In a 2013 speech on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman BRIDENSTINE declared: ''Marriage exists to bring a man and a woman together as husband and wife, to be a father and mother to children.'' He has stated repeatedly that he would support a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman.

Congressman BRIDENSTINE's personal views and voting record against people who identify as LGBTQ should immediately disqualify him from consideration for leading this diverse agency. NASA is an agency of inspiration, an agency that showcases the very best of American ideals: scientific integrity, innovation, diversity, fearlessness, resolve, and hope. Mr. BRIDENSTINE puts these ideals at risk and is not qualified to lead this agency.

I urge my colleagues to oppose his nomination. I urge a ''no'' vote.

I yield back.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMEMORATING VAISAKHI

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to recognize and celebrate with my Sikh friends, my constituents, and friends from the Sikh community of Pennsylvania and beyond.

I start with the acknowledgment that my pronunciation of certain words may be off, and I hope I will be forgiven.

I am delighted to have so many wonderful representatives of the Sikh community here with us in Washington. I thank them. I thank Raj Singh and all of the members of the Sikh community of Pennsylvania who made this trip down to Washington, DC, to participate in a celebration for an important holiday and to raise awareness about the Sikh community.

Sikhism has been around for nearly 600 years and originated in the Punjab region of India in the 15th century. Today, there are about 30 million Sikhs who live in countries all around the world, making it one of the world's largest religions. Sikhism is rooted in the belief that every single person—every individual—regardless of race, gender, sex, or creed, is equal before God. Sikhism was introduced in the United States in the 19th century. Today, there are about 700,000 Sikhs who live in the United States, and a large number of Sikhs reside in Pennsylvania. In fact, there are several Sikh places of worship, known as gurdwara, and they are located throughout Pennsylvania—in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Allentown, and Erie.

In my many travels across Pennsylvania, I have had an opportunity to meet with and get to know hard-working Sikh constituents. I can tell you they are close-knit, vibrant communities, deeply committed to their families—fully American while, at the same time, preserving some wonderful and often very old traditions. The Sikhs constitute a part of the rich, cultural fabric of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and I am grateful to them for what they add to my State.

A few years back, I was proud to join the American Sikh Congressional Caucus. As a member of this caucus, we honor and recognize the Sikh holiday of Vaisakhi. The holiday itself is usually celebrated on the first day of the month of Vaisakhi, which just occurred last week on Saturday, April 14. Vaisakhi is a special occasion for Sikhs to remember the founding in 1699 of the Khalsa Panth. The Khalsa were a fellowship of devout ''saint-soldier'' Sikhs who played an important role in shaping the religion's history and its identity.

The holiday also recognizes the spring harvest. Sikhs recognize this important holiday with parades, with dancing, with singing, and with other festivities, as well as with volunteer service, especially volunteering meals to those in need and other forms of community service.

This year, the Sikh Coordination Committee East Coast, with the support of the U.S. Congressional Sikh Caucus, has organized a parade in Washington on May 19 to commemorate Vaisakhi as National Sikh Day. The theme of the parade is the Sikh identity, the Sikh culture, the Sikh way of life, and thousands of Sikhs from all over the United States will be participating.

I am proud of the Sikh communities of Pennsylvania, and I wish the Sikh community much luck in the parade and a very joyous Vaisakhi.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING BARBARA BUSH

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, yesterday, our country lost a bright, caring, independent lady, and my wife, Honey, and I lost a good friend. Barbara Bush set a wonderful example as mom, wife, First Lady, and advocate for adult literacy. We express to the Bush family our sympathy and great respect for the life of Barbara Bush.

Jon Meacham wrote the biography of George H.W. Bush, Barbara Bush's husband, to great acclaim. He had access to the diaries of President Bush and Barbara Bush that was almost unparalleled in any Presidential biographer's experience. So it was a plain and unvarnished biography that told us a lot about those two individuals. I thought a better name for Jon Meacham's book—it was named ''Destiny and Power,'' and it must have been properly named because it sold a lot—would be ''The Last Gentleman.'' If I were to make a really accurate suggestion about the title for the book, I would call it ''The Last Gentleman and His Lady'' or maybe ''The Last Gentleman and His Very Independent Lady'' because Barbara Bush was a very independent lady.

I remember it was 1991. It was a sunny day, and we were walking on the south lawn of the White House. I was the Education Secretary, and I was walking with the President and Mrs. Bush to the announcement of his GI Bill for Kids, which was a school choice program for low-income children. As we walked along, Barbara Bush turned to President Bush and said, ''George, you've got on the wrong pants.'' He had a suit coat on from one suit, and he had pants on from another suit. So she said to the President ''You go on back in and change clothes, and Lamar and I will wait here for you,'' which we did and he did.

On another occasion, President Bush invited my wife and me to join Barbara and the President at Ford's theater. Of course, the President traveled with great security in a big car. As the protocol goes, he got out first, and as she was about to get out, she said, ''I'll get the door, George.''

On still another occasion, I was sitting next to Barbara and George Bush, and the President was called on to make some remarks. He leaned over to his wife and said, ''Barbara, what should I talk about?'' And she whispered very loudly, ''About five minutes, George.''

Barbara Bush was quite a woman. She said what she thought. When the second one of her sons decided to run for President, she was reported to have said, ''We've had enough Bushes.''

When I ran for President in 1999 against her other son, I made what I thought—certainly by today's standards—some very mild comments disagreeing about something, and I heard

from Barbara Bush about what I had said about her son, George W. Bush.

Not many of us think how difficult it must be to be the spouse of a President of the United States with all that one goes through, but think how much harder it must also be to be the mother of a President of the United States and the mother of another distinguished son who was Governor of a large State and who ran for President of the United States. Barbara Bush was the anchor of her family, and a very successful and remarkable family it was.

I was Education Secretary for President Bush in 1991 when the National Literacy Act was enacted. Let's use Barbara's own words to define the event. She wrote in her memoir, ''I must say I got more credit than I deserve.''

I don't agree with that, but she continued:

I heard that George was going to give the pen to me, but before he could, Senator Simon spoke up and said, ''That pen ought to go to Barbara.'' I donated it to the George Bush Presidential Library Center. In the end, however it's not pens and pictures that count; it's the National Literacy Act that really counts. It was the first piece of legislation—and to date, the only one—ever enacted specifically for literacy with the goal of ensuring that every American adult acquires the basic literacy skills necessary to achieve the greatest possible satisfaction professionally and personally. But even more than that, the act seeks to strengthen our nation by giving us more productive workers and informed citizens.

In his biography of President George H.W. Bush, John Meacham wrote of a ''generational controversy,'' in his words, that Barbara Bush endured in May of 1990. She was invited to Wellesley College to speak at graduation and receive an honorary degree, but she was being criticized by Wellesley's young women, as President Bush put in his own diary—these are President Bush's words—''because she hasn't made it on her own—she's where she is because she's her husband's wife. What's wrong with the fact that she's a good mother,'' President Bush wrote in his diary, ''a good wife, great volunteer, great leader for literacy and other fine causes? Nothing. But to listen to these elitist kids there is.''

Meacham writes:

Mrs. Bush invited [Mrs.] Gorbachev along with her to Wellesley. There, [she] confronted the issues of work versus family and the role of women head-on, delivering a well-received commencement address.

She put the audience at ease early on by saying: One day, I am sure that someone in this audience will grow up to become a spouse of the President of the United States, and I wish him well.

Meacham continues:

''Maybe we should adjust faster, maybe we should adjust slower,'' she told the graduates. ''But whatever the era, whatever the times, one thing will never change: Fathers and mothers, if you have children—they must come first. You must read to your children, and you must hug your children, and you must love your children. Your success as a family, our success as a society depends not on what happens in the White House, but on what happens inside your house.''

Barbara Bush said that to the Wellesley graduates in 1990.

The country is expressing to the Bush family, as I am trying to today, our great respect for Barbara Bush's life.

President Bush, George H.W. Bush, has sent a response to those of us who sent our condolences, and I would like to close with the President's own words about his wife Barbara. This is what George H.W. Bush said:

I always knew Barbara was the most beloved woman in the world, and in fact I used to tease her that I had a complex about that fact. But the truth is the outpouring of love and friendship being directed at The Enforcer is lifting us all up. We have faith she is in heaven, and we know life will go on—as she would have it. So cross the Bushes off your worry list.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays on the pending nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Muniz nomination?

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 79 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Alexander	Gardner	Nelson
Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blunt	Grassley	Perdue
Boozman	Hatch	Portman
Burr	Heitkamp	Risch
Capito	Heller	Roberts
Cassidy	Hoeven	Rounds
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Corker	Inhofe	Sasse
Cornyn	Isakson	Scott
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Crapo	Jones	Sullivan
Cruz	Kennedy	Thune
Daines	Lankford	Tillis
Donnelly	Lee	Toomey
Enzi	Manchin	Wicker
Ernst	McConnell	Young
Fischer	Moran	
Flake	Murkowski	

NAYS—43

Baldwin	Cortez Masto	Klobuchar
Bennet	Durbin	Leahy
Blumenthal	Feinstein	Markey
Booker	Gillibrand	McCaskill
Brown	Harris	Menendez
Cantwell	Hassan	Merkley
Cardin	Heinrich	Murphy
Carper	Hirono	Murray
Casey	Kaine	Peters
Coons	King	Reed
Sanders	Stabenow	Warren
Schatz	Tester	Whitehouse
Schumer	Udall	Wyden
Shaheen	Van Hollen	
Smith	Warner	

NOT VOTING—2

Duckworth	McCain

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

NOMINATION OF MIKE POMPEO

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, over the past 24 hours we have learned of a high-level meeting between Director Pompeo—Mike Pompeo, the President's nominee to become Secretary of State—and Kim Jong Un, the leader—the tyrant leader—of North Korea, who has threatened to use nuclear weapons not only against our allies but against the United States and has a growing capability in his efforts to do just that.

We have also seen incredible partisan obstruction threatened on his nomination. The absurd levels of partisanship in this Chamber are a stain on our institution. We see it at every level of nominations, from ambassadorships to commissions to boards. Now we see it at the level of the Secretary of State, a position that will be instrumental in denuclearizing the North Korean regime.

Director Pompeo had his confirmation hearing last week before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. We now know that his testimony at this committee hearing took place after he had visited Kim Jong Un, and in this committee hearing, he made it very clear that our goal remains the complete and verifiable irreversible denuclearization. That is the stated goal, confirmed by Director Pompeo: the complete and verifiable irreversible denuclearization of North Korea. Yet we now have people threatening to stop this nomination at a critical time when we face a nuclear threat that is the greatest this country has seen since the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle would decide to deny this country its top State Department diplomat.

Let me describe what some of our colleagues have said who have claimed now that they are going to vote against Mike Pompeo for Secretary of State but who, just a few months back, voted to confirm Mike Pompeo. One of my colleagues who is voting against Director Pompeo for Secretary of State has admitted that Director Pompeo has been a ''solid manager'' of the CIA, saying:

I voted for him to head the CIA and don't wish I had that vote back. I think he has a background in intel and has been a solid manager there.

Another colleague, who tried to criticize Director Pompeo's diversity policies at the CIA, was met with this response from Director Pompeo, who explained at the hearing that those types of complaints decreased under his leadership. Mike Pompeo stated: ''The number of—we call them 'no fear complaints'—the statutory requirement decreased from 2016 to 2017 by 40 percent.''

Director Pompeo further explained: ''I'm proud of the record . . . the work that my team has done on this.''

So concerns about diversity policies was refuted at the committee hearing.

Another Senator seems worried that Mike Pompeo is conducting diplomacy and said: ''Pompeo is the wrong person to be engaging in diplomacy.''

The nominee to be Secretary of State is the wrong person to be conducting diplomacy? Perhaps we need somebody working at the Department of Transportation. Maybe that is the person they want to conduct diplomacy. Building interstates—maybe that is who they think should be conducting diplomacy. I would rather have somebody who has been nominated to be Secretary of State to be conducting diplomacy—somebody who has an outstanding background in the military, somebody who stood in Europe during the height of the Cold War, standing on the iron wall.

This is a time when we ought to be doing everything we can to confirm a Secretary of State—somebody who has had meetings already with Kim Jong Un, who has an understanding of what has to happen to achieve what Kim Jong Un has said—denuclearization—to achieve what is the goal of this country, the stated goal that is already enshrined in law: complete and verifiable irreversible denuclearization.

To simply oppose his nomination for partisan purposes is wrong. We have seen it time and again. What we have is a simple partisan effort to derail the top diplomat, who is already engaged in top-level negotiations about denuclearization with the most significant threat this country has seen since the Cuban Missile Crisis. This country deserves better. Certainly this institution can do better.

We have somebody in Mike Pompeo with a solid background, an understanding of diplomacy and, clearly, the intelligence background through his time at the CIA, and now he would be denied this opportunity simply because of his political affiliation.

This country deserves better.

I urge my colleagues to stop this absurd obstruction and confirm Mike Pompeo, and let's get to work achieving what could be lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. That time is now, and I urge my colleagues to take the opportunity for peace.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the Senate routinely reauthorizes the Coast Guard, much like the Defense act. It shouldn't be a terribly partisan issue. It never has been. We all deeply respect the work of the Coast Guard and recognize the heroism of the men and women who serve in that capacity.

But, unfortunately, the Republican majority slipped a poison pill rider into this otherwise noncontroversial bill that would repeal part of the Clean Water Act. That is why the Coast Guard reauthorization bill failed today.

The rider would prohibit the EPA and the States from regulating pollution and invasive species from the ballast water of large vessels. Instead, it would let the Coast Guard set regulations—an agency that doesn't have the environmental expertise of the EPA. This is a massive change to the Clean Water Act.

The Clean Water Act has worked well for decades because the States drive innovation and enforcement in partnership with the EPA. Under this law, States would no longer be able to do that. The idea of States' rights goes out the window.

I have visited many different parts of my State, in Upstate New York, where invasive species have long plagued communities, or parts of Long Island, where toxic chemicals and algae plague the bays and beaches. They hurt our clamming industry severely. They hurt businesses, they hurt tourism, and they hurt fishing as well—you name it.

We believe the rider will cost many States tens of billions of dollars in lost economic activity. Let me repeat that. Many States will lose tens of billions of dollars in economic activity because of this rider.

Let me also say this about small recreational fishermen—and New York State is third in the number of recreational pleasure boats. No one is proposing to hurt the little guy. That is why Democrats are ready to permanently exempt them from vessel discharge requirements.

Finally, let me make a point about progress and regular order. The vessel discharge provisions in this bill violate the regular order of the Senate. This is a matter under the jurisdiction of the Environment and Public Works Committee, not the Commerce Committee. There was no consultation with the EPW minority on this provision. There were no hearings. Instead, the Commerce Committee inserted these provisions into the Coast Guard reauthorization bill over the objection of many Democrats.

So I will be offering shortly to pass a clean Coast Guard reauthorization bill by unanimous consent. It includes a permanent exemption from discharge requirements for small recreational fishermen. Democrats are ready to pass this Coast Guard bill as is, without the poison pill environmental rider.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment at the desk to the McConnell motion to concur with amendment No. 2232 be called up and made in order; that the amendment be agreed to; that the motion to concur with amendment No. 2232, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motion to refer and all other amendments be withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, there is no objection to the Senate considering an amendment to strike the VIDA language. We have offered our colleagues the opportunity to vote on this amendment all week, and if the Senate needs to speak on the question of whether to include the VIDA language in the Coast Guard bill, I would welcome that debate and a fair up-or-down vote. There are many supporters of this language from both sides of the aisle, and I am confident the amendment would be defeated.

I would ask the Senator to revise his request: That the Senate resume consideration of the Coast Guard legislation; that the amendment to strike the VIDA provision be made pending and the Senate vote on the amendment prior to a vote on the motion to concur with further amendment.

So would the Senator be willing to modify?

Mr. SCHUMER. I will not.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority leader.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today Senate Democrats have filibustered legislation to reauthorize funding for our Coast Guard.

In a dangerous world, the brave men and women of the Coast Guard are always ready for the call, whether it be to interdict drugs, to secure our ports, or to conduct daring maritime rescues. They deserve our support. They don't deserve a filibuster for the sake of political posturing. So let's have a little plain talk about why the bill failed.

Democrats filibustered this legislation because it contains an eminently sensible, bipartisan provision to streamline regulations for the mariners and vessel operators who drive America's maritime economy. It would cut back on duplicative rules and overlapping enforcement and provide a uniform standard that protects the environment and commerce alike.

If this sounds like a commonsense, bipartisan measure, that is because that is exactly what it is. This legislation has been favorably reported by the Commerce Committee six times—six

times—during the last three Congresses, including when our Democratic friends controlled the committee.

You might think that would be enough around here to get a bill passed. But earlier today, a number of the very same Democrats who cosponsored this very legislation, in this very Congress, flip-flopped under partisan pressure and voted against it. In fact, if all of the Senate Democrats who are currently cosponsors of this provision had voted for the bill, the cloture motion would have passed. Let me say that again. If the cosponsors of this measure in this Congress had voted for the bill, the cloture motion would have passed. If only those Democrats who had put their name on this provision would have actually followed through and voted for it, the filibuster would be over.

Look, our constituents sent us here to stand for their interests. In landlocked States like Kentucky and Missouri, thousands and thousands of jobs depend on our inland waterways. In coastal States like Delaware, Washington, and Florida, major ports enable hundreds of billions of dollars of U.S. commerce. Of course, the people of Hawaii rely on shipping for everything from groceries to gasoline.

In all of these States, and elsewhere, I know workers and job creators were excited about the prospect of reform in this area. How do I know that? Because, in several cases, they successfully persuaded their own Democratic Senators to support it—or so it had seemed, until today.

You know, Americans might be forgiven for thinking that persuading their Senator to go out of their way and cosponsor a bill would be the same thing as persuading them to actually vote for it. Apparently, where several of my Democratic colleagues are concerned, that is simply not the case because when party leaders came calling and asked my colleagues to put party-line obstruction politics ahead of their constituents' best interests, they folded. This is what people don't like about this town.

Well, my Democratic friends' political priorities may have shifted—away from the people they are elected to fight for and toward leftwing pressure groups. But the merits of the issue have not changed, so the Senate will consider this issue further and will vote on this legislation again.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to speak tonight because I did not support the Coast Guard bill as it came out of committee. We wanted to see changes to it, and the legislation that was brought up and the final language on Monday night gave our colleagues very little time to consider it.

Washington State is very proud of the rich maritime heritage the Coast Guard provides, and our fishermen, Tribes, shipbuilders, sea trade, and thriving coastal tourism all count on us to work together for our maritime economy.

Thousands of Pacific Northwest fishermen call Washington State home, with over 35,000 Washington State jobs supported by Alaska fisheries. The ports of Tacoma and Seattle are combined to be the fourth largest container gateway in the United States.

The Coast Guard plays a pivotal role in national security, in fishing, in overseeing and, in many ways, keeping our waterways safe. That is why we would love to see a Coast Guard bill which moves forward without the controversial pieces of language that are included.

I know many of my colleagues have thought this is a way to get our colleagues from the Midwest, and other places, to just swallow wholesale huge changes that could cost our economy billions of dollars—such as the zebra mussel, which alone would cost $6.4 billion a year, and an ecosystem full of rampant and sometimes toxic algae growth, which would and destroy recreation. This is from a letter regarding the Coast Guard Authorization Act.

I would like to see us move forward tonight on the things we can agree on—Why? Because I know these things are important as well—and continue to work on a resolution for some of the thornier issues that still remain.

I would like to see us move forward. I would like to see a recapitalization of the Coast Guard icebreaker and Polar Star. The Polar Star is homeported in Seattle and is operational only for our heavy icebreaker capabilities.

This bill also includes language to improve the Coast Guard oversight of ships that pose an oilspill risk, which is a constant threat to us in Puget Sound and throughout the West, given the large amount of oil traffic that comes through Puget Sound out our strait.

The bill also includes language to strengthen paid family leave policies at the Coast Guard. We just had the commandant nominee before the Commerce Committee. One of the reasons I questioned him on the paid family leave strategies and moving forward is that I want to give him every tool to continue to keep the workforce of women that they have in the Coast Guard. His commitment to me is that they would love to see this strengthened paid family leave policy in the underlying Coast Guard bill. Why not give that to them tonight? Our Coast Guard families should not be forced to choose between serving their country and supporting their families, and this bill would be a good step forward.

Lastly, this bill includes bipartisan language that would help us protect shipyard jobs by making sure we fix the problem related to Dakota Creek and also making sure our permanent fishing vessel exemptions would be allowed in this legislation.

I know we face challenges on continued definitions of best technology. But that is better than having a definition that exists in the underlying bill, which I think we should separate the good policy from, that would really make no indication or an economic analysis that would leave us with the Great Lakes, and many areas, without the kind of clean water that will allow us to continue to do good science and good fishery policy in that area of the United States.

I hope we can move forward on the policies that my colleagues know we can get agreement on. I just heard the debate between the majority leader and Senator SCHUMER, so I understand there is an objection to moving the Coast Guard bill.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

I have a bill at the desk to improve the regulation of certain vessels, and I ask unanimous consent, as in legislative session, that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, let me just make one correction for the record that my friend, the Democratic leader, brought up earlier and which has been alluded to by the Senator from Washington.

The issue was a matter under the jurisdiction of the Commerce Committee, and for the information of the Senate, this part of the bill has been introduced as a stand-alone bill. Senate bill 168 was referred to the Commerce Committee and not the EPW Committee, and the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee agrees with that. So this argument that somehow this is not under the committee's jurisdiction is one I would raise as an objection to the request of Senator from Washington.

Secondly, as I think the Senator from Washington knows, we have worked tirelessly with every member of our committee on both sides of the aisle and Members off the committee. Furthermore, I think we have accommodated every request the Senator from Washington has made on this bill, and we have involved her in all these discussions. My understanding was that as a result of that consultation and those discussions on the bill, she was going to vote in favor of the bill.

Now what she wants to do is take out those pieces of a very carefully negotiated bill that she doesn't like and pass just the provisions that she likes. It would be great if, here in the U.S. Senate, we could all do that. But that doesn't happen around here.

We carefully negotiated this, with great input from the Senator from Washington, and it was my understanding that the Senator from Washington was going to vote for this package. I object to picking out the pieces

that we like and not working with the collaborative process that has involved both Republicans and Democrats, both on the committee and off the committee, to bring a bill to the floor that enjoyed 65 votes in support until this afternoon. Politics is being played here—pure and simple, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.

I object to the Senator's request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, who I know considers the efforts of the Commerce Committee as great, hard work, and I appreciate his hard work. As I mentioned, I did not support the bill as it came out of committee.

I know there are things we are trying to work on to keep this process moving. But I would say to my colleague, the small vessel discharge bill has been something that has been part of an exemption process related to this for a long time. It has been considered many times over. Our fishermen need the certainty of this.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

I have a bill at the desk related to the application of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and ask unanimous consent that, as in legislative session, the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would simply say this is peeling out pieces of the bill that one Senator in this Chamber likes and basically telling every other Senator on both sides of the aisle, Republicans and Democrats who negotiated this, to go pound sand: We don't like the provisions that have been negotiated on both sides, very carefully, over months.

I might add, this bill has been introduced and dealt with at the committee level during five different Congresses—five different Congresses. This year, it has passed not once, but twice, out of the Senate Commerce Committee by a voice vote.

It seems to me, at least, that even after it came out of the committee, the fact that we negotiated this with the Senator from Washington and multiple Senators on the other side of the aisle, both on and off the committee, to come up with a balanced package that enjoyed broad bipartisan support—65 votes—until this afternoon, suggests to me this is purely politics being played with this legislation.

This is an important bill. This is the Coast Guard. This is VIDA. VIDA was referred to the Commerce Committee by the Parliamentarian. We have worked with the Commerce Committee; we have worked with the EPW Committee; we have worked with the EPA. The EPA is supporting the solution. This is not the political-level EPA; these are the career folks at the EPA who support the solution we have come up with. Yet we run into these objections that are all of a sudden—all of a sudden—coming up out of thin air.

So, Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I see my colleague from the Midwest is on the floor, and I am sure he has something to say about this. But I would just say to the chairman of the Commerce Committee: You are right. Years and years of discussion about ballast water has been a challenge.

The question tonight is whether we are going to hold up other legislation just to get that language or to push through a proposal that really doesn't give security for our waters not to be polluted or to be greatly impacted or to threaten the sea life and the opportunities for a vibrant waterway in many parts of the country.

All I am trying to do, as I have always tried to do, is be constructive in the process—both in the Commerce Committee with this issue and for the very issues that affect the Coast Guard and the Pacific Northwest.

I know this will not be the last time we hear about the fishing vessel issue. I am sure we will hear about it many times because it has been on the calendar. So we will continue this discussion, but I thank him for at least coming here tonight to discuss these issues. There are other issues that are being held up as hostage in this legislation, and they shouldn't be held hostage.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I thank both Senator THUNE and Senator CANTWELL for their exchange back and forth. I especially appreciate Senator CANTWELL's work. I grew up an hour and a half away from Lake Erie and saw, in the 1960s, what that lake looked like. For 10 years, I lived in a home near Lake Erie, and I saw the improvements we made. This bill, unfortunately, with that amendment sets us back.

We need to keep invasive species out of Lake Erie, and we need to pass a Coast Guard bill. There is no reason we can't do both. I want to speak to that in a moment.

First, I want to speak on how vital Lake Erie is to my State. Fifty percent of the fish in all the Great Lakes consider Lake Erie their habitat. The water is critical to farming, clean energy development, industry, and regional economic competitiveness. From tourism in Catawba and Put-in-Bay, to fishing in Marblehead, to vacations and family reunions at Maumee Bay State Park, Lake Erie benefits our communities and creates jobs in Ohio.

For more than half a century—I am going back to when I was a kid in the 1960s and saw what Lake Erie looked like—keeping our lake healthy has been a constant struggle. Where I lived on Lake Erie, the lake was about 50 to 60 feet deep. Moving west toward Toledo, the lake is about 30 feet deep. Contrast that with Lake Superior, which is 600 feet deep, and you can see the challenge of keeping Lake Erie clean, and you can see the vulnerability of that lake. That is the reason for the algal blooms. That is the reason that Lake Erie has had the most difficult issues facing its aquatic life. Runoff that causes harmful algal blooms and invasive species are threats we battle every year.

That is why Senator PORTMAN and I came to this floor and fought back against the President's budget 2 years in a row when the President was going to cut close to $300 million from the Great Lakes Initiative. Two years in a row, Senator PORTMAN and I fought back against it because we know that cleaning up Lake Erie is something we did in the sixties, but keeping Lake Erie clean is something we do in the seventies, eighties, nineties, into this century, and into this millennium.

The Great Lakes are home to more than 185 non-native species. By some estimates, invasive species cause $5 billion in damages to the Great Lakes every single year. A provision that would make our fight against invasive species harder has been added to the bill to reauthorize our Coast Guard. That is why I voted no earlier today.

As much as I want Coast Guard reauthorization, my first responsibility, other than looking out for working families in Ohio every day, is to keep the greatest natural resource in the country clean—my part of the Great Lakes, Lake Erie, the part that borders Ohio.

This provision would make it easier for invasive species to enter our lakes, harm our drinking water, and threaten local jobs that depend on boating and fishing. Every year, I meet with the Lake Erie sea captains, boat captains. They talk about the beauty of the lake and the importance of the lake to their businesses and to all of us in Northern Ohio. This provision doesn't belong in the Coast Guard bill. The Senate did the right thing by blocking it.

Again I say I strongly support the Coast Guard reauthorization. I want to see it passed. I agree with Senator THUNE. I want it to be law. That is why it is critical that this provision be removed from the bill so Congress can move forward with supporting our Coast Guard without threatening the Great Lakes. Members of the Coast Guard surely think the same thing.

This provision would eliminate the ability of Great Lakes States, such as Ohio, to set separate water quality standards to keep out invasive species. Tankers and cargo ships carry something called ballast water with them to help with stability and smooth sailing.

When they load on more cargo, they let out some of the water, and it flows out into whatever body of water they happen to be in at that time.

Think about these ships. In some sense, they are luxury liners for invasive species. They might be picked up off the coast of Japan. They might be picked up in the Indian Ocean. They might be picked up in the South Atlantic Ocean. They end up coming down the Saint Lawrence Seaway carrying this water with invasive species from around the world, and they release them into Lake Erie or into Lake Ontario or Lake Michigan or Lake Superior or Lake Huron.

It may not sound like a big deal if a ship takes on water with zebra mussels in the Caspian Sea off the coast of Russia and lets them out in Lake Erie, but those little mussels do major damage to our lakes and our economy. Local governments and taxpayers end up paying the price. This affects the beauty of Lake Erie and the cleanliness of its water. That is so important. It affects the economy because it costs local taxpayers money to clean up from these invasive species. They clog up water intake pipes. They spike costs for local ratepayers. They make toxic algal blooms worse. When drinking water gets contaminated, the local water utility has to clean it up, and they pass on the cost. The fishing and tourism industries rely on Lake Erie and feel that pain.

As I said, I remember how polluted Lake Erie looked when I was growing up. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has made a real difference. We have made real progress cleaning up the lake's tributaries, from the Black River, to the Cuyahoga River, to the Ashtabula River, to the Grand River, to the Maumee River, the largest tributary feeding into any of the Great Lakes, draining 4 million acres west and south of Toledo. It has been a bipartisan success story.

The Great Lakes region contains 84 percent of North America's surface freshwater and provides drinking water to tens of millions of Americans. It generates billions in economic activity. Why would we risk that? Why would we risk that by voting for this bill? That is why Senator CANTWELL was right. We need to pass a Coast Guard bill. We need to keep invasive species out of Lake Erie. We can do both by stripping this provision from the bill right away and move it forward and pass it.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, when we think about climate change—something we don't do much of in this body—we often think about rising global temperatures and heat waves, and we think of changing weather patterns, stronger storms, or sea level rise threatening coastal communities. We actually see these effects unfold across the United States and around the world as heat records fall, winters shrink, and waters creep ever higher along our coastlines.

We also see the economic consequences of climate change. Just last year, the United States suffered a record 16 separate billion-dollar weather disasters, adding up to well over $300 billion in damages. Acidifying seawater has devastated shellfish harvests in the Pacific Northwest. Rhode Island fishermen struggle as their traditional catches move farther north and offshore. Insurers and bond rating agencies warn that coastal regions are becoming too risky to build homes and infrastructure.

Among those various hazards, there is another hazard: the effects of climate change on public health. The Rhode Island Department of Health has produced this guide for Rhode Islanders to help them understand the health risks they face from climate change and to better learn how to protect themselves from what are often new risks.

Perhaps the most obvious effect of climate change on public health is increased heat-related illness and mortality. This link has been well studied across the country, often cross-referencing temperature records and death certificates. Work has been done by a lot of places; one of them is Rhode Island's own Brown University.

Here is the Rhode Island Health Department report. Over the last century, Rhode Island's average temperature has already increased by more than 3 degrees Fahrenheit, and temperatures are expected to keep on climbing due to climate change. Currently, Rhode Island sees on average only about 10 days of 90-plus degree temperatures. Starting in the next decade and running through the end of the century, the number of days that the heat index will hit at least 90 degrees will rise to between 13 and 44 days each summer. That is as much as 6 weeks in a summer of heat in the nineties. That increase of hot summer days caused by climate change puts many Rhode Islanders at risk, particularly those who don't have air conditioning, either because they can't afford it or because, right now, they don't need it. Heat waves are the leading cause of extreme weather-related deaths in the United States, causing an average of more than 600 deaths a year and thousands more hospitalizations. Rhode Island, even though we are in the Northeast, is not spared, and with climate change, it will only get worse.

Hot days pose a health risk to many different groups of people, as shown here in Rhode Island's Department of Health report. Children, the elderly, people who work outdoors, athletes, the disabled, pregnant women, and folks who are on medications that reduce their bodies' ability to dissipate heat are just some of the many people who are especially at risk from heat waves. Because of the nature of their responsibilities, emergency responders are particularly vulnerable.

When I visited Phoenix, AZ, I was told by their emergency response leadership that they are having to restructure the duty schedules to protect firefighters from being overcome, if they are out fighting fires or responding to an emergency in daytime temperatures, because they overheat. So you have to rotate them through much faster and add cooling and hydration teams to support the fire crews as they speed through their heightened rotations.

An ER doc from the Lifespan health system in Rhode Island visited my office and told another story about an older woman who was treated for a heat-related illness. She had just been sitting outside on a hot day, in the Sun, enjoying herself. Perhaps she didn't feel the need to hydrate herself. Perhaps some routine medication that she was on made her more susceptible, but she was not aware of how quickly she was overheating. When her husband returned home from work, he found her lethargic and unable to move, with a body temperature of 107 degrees.

Hotter temperatures are bad on their own because of the effects they have on people's bodies and because of the added deaths that they cause, but they also work to create more ozone. Ozone is dangerous. Ozone is dangerous for children. It is dangerous for the elderly. It is dangerous for anyone with asthma or other breathing-related difficulties. Again, from Rhode Island's health report, Rhode Island's asthma rates are 33 percent higher than national averages for adults and 40 percent higher for children. So asthma is pretty serious for us, and people go to the hospital for this.

This is not just an inconvenience. In Rhode Island, we have heard air quality alerts on morning drive-time radio. You are going in to work and listening to the radio, and the announcer is saying, ''Kids, seniors, people with breathing difficulties, you need to stay indoors today.'' It is a sunny, perfect summer day, it seems. Ozone is not visible, but because it is there and because of what it does to lungs and to asthma, people in Rhode Island are told they can't go outdoors that day. That kind of bad day alert, because it is for ozone, is going to become more frequent as climate change warms up our climate and produces more ozone.

It works this way. Our air in Rhode Island is polluted, primarily, by midwestern powerplants. Out in the Midwest, they run the emissions up supertall smokestacks. The pollution is then injected up into the atmosphere and is carried away on prevailing winds. Guess what. It bakes in the Sun,

turns to ozone, and it lands on us—not them, us. It is their pollution, our lungs.

Thanks a bunch, guys.

Our air is also worsened by smoke from forest fires, even from as far away as Canada, and the warming climate, as the Presiding Officer knows, has created an extraordinary fire situation out West. Changing precipitation patterns have produced more fires, and that means more smoke in downwind States, and we are a downwind State.

The result of all of this is that Rhode Island's air quality receives only a C from the American Lung Association. This poor grade is largely because of ozone, most of which comes from out of State. We end up with grade C air because of, primarily, out-of-State pollutants. This is not just some minor inconvenience. Across the country, air pollution—much of it made worse by climate change—is responsible for a staggering 200,000 premature deaths each year.

Pollen is another problem. Shifting seasons produce a longer pollen season. Increased pollen levels, particularly with increased air pollution, kick in allergies, which takes us into another risk. The warmth of earlier springs and later falls also means that tick and mosquito season in Rhode Island lasts far longer than it used to, and that moves us to yet more health risks and diseases.

Rhode Island already has the fourth highest rate of Lyme disease in the country. We have over 900 cases a year, and as temperatures increase, we are likely to see the number of ticks in Rhode Island increase, which would be expected to lead to even more cases of Lyme disease. In States not too far north of us, the tick situation has gotten so out of control that they are actually seeing moose calves die off because they are so swarmed with ticks. I am sorry. I know this is a little bit gross, but calves are dying when their bodies can't support both their own metabolism and feeding the ticks that have crawled up onto them in the thousands—in some cases, over 10,000 ticks. So we have to be concerned about this not just for ourselves but for the wildlife around us.

Warmer temperatures also provide a longer breeding season for mosquitoes. More downpours—yet another result of climate change—result in more standing water, which is habitat for mosquito larvae. Rhode Island has been up 76 percent in extreme downpours since 1950. That is the largest increase in extreme precipitation events out of all 50 States. Of course, these little critters, the mosquitoes, carry the West Nile virus, the Eastern equine encephalitis, and other illnesses we didn't used to see in our State.

As if all of this were not bad enough, climate change is also worsening another natural hazard that threatens public health—harmful algae blooms. Algae naturally occur in lakes and oceans, but in certain conditions, algae populations can explode. These blooms, they call them—blooms of algae—can slime waterways and overwhelm ecosystems, eating up nutrients, and they can deplete oxygen in the water and in the oceans so completely that no other life can exist, so that other creatures—fish—actually suffocate in the water. Algae are often, therefore, the reason behind massive fish kills.

Some kinds of algae even produce toxins. People can become sick from exposure to the contaminated, toxin-filled water and even from the air if you get enough surface turbulence and churning of waves that it aerates the toxins, and then it is inhaled. The toxins can get into our food chain. They end up in shellfish and seafood on our dinner plates. Depending on which toxin it is, the consequences for people, for pets, and for wildlife can range from rashes and skin irritation, to pretty severe neurological and gastrointestinal symptoms, to respiratory arrest, and even death.

In 2016, New England was hit for the first time by a Pseudo-nitzschia bloom—a kind of algae that produces a toxin, domoic acid, which caused large swaths of Narragansett Bay to be closed to shellfishing. The Providence Journal reported: ''In the more than 15 years officials have tested for [domoic acid], Rhode Island . . . never had a bloom reaching dangerous levels.'' In March of 2017, Rhode Island was forced, once again, to institute emergency shellfish closures in Narragansett Bay—stuff that did not used to happen before this—when algae produced dangerous levels of domoic acid.

This may seem funny to my western colleagues, but people make their living doing this stuff, so it is not funny to us in Rhode Island when climate change is warming our oceans and creating these risks. Harmful algae blooms have also been advised for ponds in Portsmouth, Cranston, Greenville, and Tiverton.

In all of these ways—from heat-related illnesses, to respiratory disease, to allergies, to tick- and mosquito-borne illnesses, to toxic algae blooms—climate change has serious and wide-ranging effects on public health. Rhode Island's Department of Health has done an excellent service with this report—in helping Rhode Islanders learn how to be aware and to protect themselves. It was supported, by the way, by a grant from the CDC, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in its Climate and Health Program. It was a small $10 million program, but it helped this project's report come to fruition in Rhode Island. We appreciate it. It is a wise investment to help prepare Americans for unfamiliar diseases that are being driven into our neighborhoods by a change in climate.

As I conclude, I know that there are colleagues here who do not care to listen to environmental groups, but they might want to listen to the American Medical Association. The American Medical Association writes: ''Scientific surveys have shown clear evidence that our patients are facing adverse health effects associated with climate change.''

Colleagues might listen to the American Lung Association, which writes: ''Climate change seriously threatens our wellness—especially our lung health.''

Perhaps colleagues might consider the opinion of the American Academy of Pediatrics, which writes: ''Tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century.'' They write that because here is the problem: ''Climate change poses threats to human health, safety, and security, and children are at particularly high risk.''

We may disagree about a lot around here, but when the American Academy of Pediatrics is telling us that climate change poses serious threats to human health, safety, and security and that children are at particularly high risk, it is a very callous thing to pay no attention. It is time to wake up. Our constituents' health and well-being actually does hang in the balance, and this Rhode Island report shows it for our State at least.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Rhode Island for his leadership and his outspokenness—how he has shown the importance of the Senate actually doing its job on both climate change and campaign finance and how much they are related to each other because of the stranglehold the oil industry has on the Republican Party and the hundreds of millions of dollars they spend. Senator WHITEHOUSE has been on this floor well over 100 times to talk about that. The country certainly listens, and the country is, certainly, in the same place he is and a lot of us are. Unfortunately, the special interest groups in this town continue to control this Senate.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. President, right now, American manufacturers and American workers are not competing on a level playing field with foreign competitors. The Export-Import Bank is a vital tool for manufacturers in Ohio. In other States, it is helping them export Ohio products around the world. It is helping them compete in the global marketplace. Yet, for an unbelievable 3 years, the Export-Import Bank has been forced to stop most of its work.

I am joined on the floor today by Senator HEITKAMP of North Dakota, who will make the case, as I do, that it makes no sense that some special interest groups have stopped and some ideology way out in right field has stopped the Senate from doing its job with the Export-Import Bank.

Over these 3 years, 95 export credit agencies around the globe, including China's massive export credit agencies, have been aggressively helping foreign

competitors win sales and the jobs that come with them—jobs that would be in the United States but that don't exist in this country—if the administration and the Republican Congress would do their job and move forward on the Export-Import Bank.

China provides more credit every 2 years than the Export-Import Bank has in its 80-year history. If Congress is serious about ensuring American businesses stay competitive, we have to have a functional export-import credit agency, but this Congress has done the opposite. It starved the Bank of the nominees it needs to function, it has crippled its ability to support American jobs for no reason that anybody can figure out. Right now, the Export-Import Bank under law can't finance any transaction worth more than $10 million because under the law, if it doesn't have a quorum, it can't do that.

The Bank's opponents in the Senate have spent years blocking votes on Board nominees because they want to kill the Bank. It is a small minority of Members of this Senate and the House, but they have had their way with their parliamentary tricks. Every additional day of delay means lost contracts in Ohio, North Dakota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Oklahoma, and lost contracts mean lost jobs and additional costs to taxpayers. Without new transactions, the Bank will not be able to self-finance its operations.

If the Bank is fully reopened, it expects to return more than $600 million to the Treasury, meaning more jobs, more businesses, more tax revenues, but we are not doing it.

Tomorrow the Ex-Im Bank will begin its annual conference. Senior officials from the administration, including Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and White House National Trade Council Director Peter Navarro will be in attendance. Why are they there? They played no role in keeping the Export-Import Bank functioning. This meeting is usually an opportunity for American exporters to learn about how Ex-Im can help them grow their business.

I have dozens of those companies. There are some big ones like GE, large businesses such as Boeing. Both do a lot of business in my State, provide a lot of jobs, but it is the smaller companies that most people in this Chamber—I have heard of them because I work with them—but most people in this Chamber haven't heard of these small companies that benefit.

Instead, the Bank tomorrow will have to warn American companies that it is prohibited from doing its work. The Bank is hobbled. There will not be a single member of the Board of Directors to represent the Bank at its own conference. Why? Because we haven't confirmed any of them.

To businesses in Ohio, this makes no sense. They don't understand why President Trump will not do anything about it. He has refused. They don't understand why Senator MCCONNELL will not do anything about this. He has refused.

Dozens of American goods are not being manufactured and sold because the Bank is crippled. American companies sit on the sidelines.

Ohio is the home to GE Aviation, which designs and builds the most advanced commercial aircraft engines in the world. Senator PORTMAN and I have both seen the work they do. Senator PORTMAN, my Republican colleague in Ohio, is very supportive of the Bank. He and I have seen up close this plant and their incredible technology. They build the best aircraft engines in the world. GE Aviation supports 24,000 workers in Alabama, Kentucky, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and Mississippi. That doesn't include the thousands of workers who are their supplier partners. They all risk losing business because their foreign competitors have a tool they don't.

GE can offer the best workforce, the best technology, but without the Export-Import Bank, they can't match the financing the foreign airline gets from the United Kingdom when they buy Rolls Royce engines. GE is far from alone. Many manufacturers, as I said, are being hurt.

When Ex-Im was fully operational, it provided $20 billion in financing to American companies and supported nearly 165,000 jobs. These are generally good-paying union manufacturing jobs. Maybe that is part of the problem. They are union jobs, and I know the opponents of Export-Import Bank aren't wild about union jobs.

This past fiscal year that financing was cut by more than two-thirds. The Bank supports 40,000 jobs. It went from 165,000 before to 40,000 now. That is why the demand for reopening the Bank is overwhelming—the National Association of Manufacturers, the chamber of commerce, the Aerospace Industries Association—one after another after another—the Ohio Manufacturers' Association and small business across the country.

President Trump last year said he wanted the Bank to get back to work, but he nominated somebody who was determined to kill the Bank. We voted down that nomination with a bipartisan vote, and we supported four others who wanted and believed in the Export-Import Bank and wanted to make it work.

Let's deliver for American businesses and American workers. Let's reopen the Bank. Let's make sure the Bank supports another 125,000 jobs. We can't wait any longer. The Senate has waited 4 months. Senator MCCONNELL doesn't seem to want to move on this. President Trump doesn't want to do anything about this. There are $44 billion in transactions at the Bank that need Board approval. All of these opportunities for job creation and all these opportunities for growing American businesses could be lost.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 579 and 580, Spencer Bachus; No. 581, Judith Pryor; No. 582, Kimberly Reed; No. 583 and 584, Claudia Slacik; and No. 585, Mark Greenblatt; that the Senate proceed to vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD, and the President be notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I have long advocated for profound reform of the Export-Import Bank. My preference has long been that the U.S. administration—in fact, this was an obligation of the previous administration which it chose to ignore—but that the U.S. administration negotiate among our trading partners a mutual phaseout of these taxpayer-subsidized export entities.

My objection to this is the embedded taxpayer subsidy, the embedded taxpayer risk in every transaction the Ex-Im does. The special interest I am defending here today is the American taxpayer.

Now, I am pretty sure I am not going to change anyone's mind on the floor tonight, so let me just make clear about where we are with these nominees. During the Banking Committee hearings, I and other colleagues made it clear. I would support the nominees to fill the vacancies on the Board provided that a reformer such as Scott Garrett was included among them. I would have supported restoring the quorum with the confidence that there would have been at least a good-faith effort to begin the kind of reforms we need. Unfortunately, the committee chose not to advance Scott Garrett, who would have done, I think, a very good job bridging the gap between the opponents and proponents of Ex-Im Bank, but that was not to be.

Instead, Ex-Im supporters are now asking to confirm the remaining nominees but not include Scott Garrett, who has taken himself out of the running at this point, nor would it include any other person as President.

What would the consequences of this be if this unanimous consent request were agreed to? The Ex-Im Bank would constitute a quorum, would resume doing multimillion- and multibillion-dollar deals, all which would put taxpayers at risk and there would be no prospect of any meaningful reform.

I remain open to finding a new candidate who can lead Ex-Im and implement the kind of reforms that are needed, but that is not what is on the table at the moment, and until that time comes, I cannot support the confirmation of these additional Board members, which would reconstitute the quorum; therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I am disappointed that we can't confirm the Ex-Im nominees today. I know many other Senators want to resolve this situation.

I will continue to push to reopen the Ex-Im Bank.

We were willing—the majority of the Banking Committee was willing to flip and put Mr. Garrett as one of the members, one of the four members, and make Mr. Bachus, another former House Member, who is qualified and is a supporter of the Ex-Im Bank Chairman. We were willing to have Scott Garrett on this Board but not as Chairman because the Chairman sets the agenda. Mr. Garrett would not, when questioned by Senator HEITKAMP, who asked him tough questions, would not commit to the committee that he wasn't out to destroy and undermine the Bank. We were willing to put Mr. Garrett there, just not in the Chairman's position. It is clear Mr. Garrett, on behalf of the Vice President and a small number of Members of this body, want to undermine and destroy the Ex-Im Bank. There is no question about that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I would like to point out that included in the list of nominees who my colleague from Ohio asked unanimous consent for confirmation, was the inspector general for the Export-Import Bank. That is a different function. That is a function I supported in committee, and I would support today. As far as I am aware, there is no objection whatsoever on this side of the aisle and no objection to confirming the inspector general to this post. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Executive Calendar No. 585; that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I reserve the right to object.

Mr. President, how does it make sense to confirm an inspector general for an agency that really isn't an agency that is actually in operation doing its best? So we are not going to appoint the members of the Board. We will have zero Board members. They will not be able to conduct the quality and the quantity of business that they used to, and that they could if we had no objection to the motion earlier, and then we are going to have an inspector general to watch over them? That simply doesn't make sense.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I am here representing a special interest group called the workers of America.

Mr. INHOFE. Will the Senator yield for a unanimous consent request?

Ms. HEITKAMP. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of remarks by our leader, Mr. MCCONNELL, I be recognized for 45 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would like to insert an opportunity to speak for 5 minutes after Senator MCCONNELL and then yield to the Senator from Oklahoma for 45 minutes.

Mr. INHOFE. I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the request, as modified, is agreed to.

The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Thank you, Mr. President.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

I just want to say I am representing a special interest group, too, the workers of this country—the workers who have lost jobs because we do not have a functioning Ex-Im Bank; the workers whose opportunity to earn a living has been compromised because we don't have an Ex-Im Bank that is functioning; the workers who are now handed a big 50-pound weight against a Chinese worker, when the Chinese are pumping money into their export agencies and competing unfairly because we don't have an Ex-Im Bank.

Can we just for a minute be for the workers?

The Ex-Im Bank does not cost the taxpayer and has not cost the taxpayer a dime. In fact, it returns money to the Treasury. It is a win-win, but yet here we are, based on strictly ideological grounds, arguing the value of the Ex-Im Bank.

My colleague from Pennsylvania said he wants reform. I will state that we passed an effort I led in order to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank. That was a big fight. That was not a little deal; that was a big fight. In fact, we had to hold up votes on TPA so we could get a commitment on reauthorizing the Ex-Im Bank because you can't authorize trade agreements and then take away an integral part and necessary part of the trade structure, which is the Ex-Im Bank.

So let me state, all of these reforms that we agreed to were critical, such as the appointment of a chief ethics officer, appointment of a chief risk officer, forming the risk management committee—pretty important to carry out responsibility.

Guess why these reforms aren't being done. Because we don't have a functioning Ex-Im Bank. We do not have what we need to get these actions approved. So when we go through this whole process and we begin to talk about this and we say this is about reform—no, it is not. Is this about saving the taxpayers money? No, it is not. This is about an ideology. This is about third-party interest groups making this their chief whipping boy, inappropriately, and stopping American jobs.

We are in some pretty tough times right now with China, potentially in a trade war, with the potential to really, I think, hurt our country moving forward for decades to come—think about that—at a time when we are trying to drive this economy into the 21st century to provide an opportunity for us to actually win in trade.

Now, I like to tell young people who come into my office: If you don't remember anything else that I have talked about, remember the number five—five. Now, 95 percent of the people on this Earth do not live in this country. If we are not trading with them, if we are not aggressively using every tool in the toolbox to reach out and trade with them, we are going to lose. We are not going to lose just in the next 2, 3, or 4 years, but we are going to lose a whole generation of opportunity and get left behind.

So it is time for us to step up and get a fully functioning Ex-Im Bank. How do we do that? Well, we approve the four nominees whom Ranking Member BROWN has advanced and who have been stopped. The four nominees are incredibly well qualified. They had a great hearing. The Presiding Officer sits on that committee with me and knows how incredibly qualified they are. Yet, because of a minority opinion, we are held off again.

We don't have a Bank that is working, and the people who work for that Bank, who have developed relationships, developed expertise, they have waited too long. We are losing every day. We are losing this piece of trade infrastructure that is absolutely critical to the competition for American businesses.

Let's talk about what we are up against. The lack of the Ex-Im Bank board quorum has left $44 billion of exports on the table. They can't get approved because we don't have a quorum. OK, so it is a big number. Do you know what is a bigger number? When you take that and you translate it into American jobs, there are a quarter of a million American jobs that are going to be lost, that are going to be diverted to other countries because we are in this petty squabble right here with a minority group of people.

I want to add some other pieces. Every day that passes without a quorum, Congress is risking these deals, so let me tell you about some of these deals. Mack Trucks can't export Pennsylvania-manufactured vehicles to Cameroon. A U.S. engineering company

can't build a highway in Mozambique. A major petrochemical company in Egypt is on hold, and an energy project in Mozambique cannot be finalized. Hoffman International, a small business in New Jersey, can't finalize a deal with the Government of Cameroon.

If we are not trading, we are losing in this country. And if we don't have an Ex-Im Bank, we don't have a fully functioning trade apparatus. That is truth. So it is time to put aside this petty squabble.

I want to remark briefly that when we started the reauthorization effort, I was told: There is no way; you can't get the majority opinion.

The Ex-Im Bank got almost 70 votes here—almost 70 votes for reauthorization. When it went over to the House, where we were told once again that we could never get the political support for reauthorization, that it is too toxic, too high profile, guess what—well, 70 percent of the House of Representatives voted for the Ex-Im Bank.

We are being held captive. There are 250,000 American workers being held captive by an ideology that is going to fail us and doom our export effort to failure for not just the next couple of years but for a generation to come. The whole while, do you know what China is doing? When China's growth took a little dip, they pumped even more billions of dollars into their ex-im bank, into their ex-im credit agency. Do you think they did that because they thought it was a worthless gesture? No. They did it because they knew they could compete against us.

Let's not fail these 250,000 workers. Let's not fail to be smart in our competition with China. Let's get this done. The only way to get it done is to get a quorum on the Ex-Im Bank, and the only way to get a quorum is to break the deadlock that is here, stop leading with ideology, start leading with common sense, and start leading with the opportunity to respond to one of the most significant special interests groups in this country; that is, the American workers.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATE NATO OBSERVER GROUP

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today the Democratic leader and I are proud to reestablish the Senate NATO Observer Group. The group was originally established in 1997 to provide a focal point for addressing NATO issues that cut across committee jurisdictions and to help educate Senators on the issues involved in any decision to enlarge NATO and to permit close interaction between the executive branch and the Senate during negotiations on NATO enlargement. Following the Senate's ratification of the protocols of accession in April 1998, the group ceased to function until it was reestablished on June 17, 2002. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota and Minority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi announced the formation of a new Senate NATO Observer Group to follow NATO's decision to formally invite additional new countries to join the Alliance at the Prague Summit. In his floor announcement, Senator Daschle said the bipartisan Senate NATO Observer Group would ''advise the full Senate'' on NATO and the next round of NATO enlargement. The Senate NATO Observer Group remained active through 2007, but was ultimately disbanded due to a lack of NATO enlargement rounds.

In arguing for reestablishment of the group, Senators TILLIS and SHAHEEN wrote to Senator SCHUMER and I that: ''Exactly 10 years ago Estonia was one of the first countries to come under attack from Russia's modern form of hybrid warfare. In 2007, Russia conducted massive cyber-attacks on Estonia in response to Estonia's decision to relocate a Soviet Red Army memorial in Tallinn. One year later, as talks of eventual NATO membership for Georgia were debated, Russia activated its famed little green men in Georgia, invaded, and eventually occupied the Georgian regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. These regions are under Russian occupation to this day.''

In 2014, Ukraine befell a similar fate as Russia instigated a conflict, resulting in the occupation of Crimea and continued bloodshed in Ukraine's Donbass or eastern region. Since April 2014, when war erupted in eastern Ukraine, more than 10,000 people have died, a number which is steadily rising. Despite successive attempts at international negotiations and peace, the Kremlin grew more aggressive in its stance and, in 2016, expanded its malign efforts into Western Europe and the United States.

During the 2016 U.S. Presidential elections, U.S. intelligence agencies were able to conclude that Russia interfered in the U.S. elections using a combination of hybrid tools. A similar pattern soon emerged across NATO states, where the Kremlin used both cyber attacks and disinformation to sow chaos and mistrust in Western democracies. Given these newfound challenges, increased engagement and assistance for transatlantic security was elevated as a critical priority for the Senate, as well as successive administrations.

The 2018 Senate NATO Observer Group will mirror the structure and make-up of previous Senate NATO Observer Groups with eight Members serving ex officio, the two leaders plus the chairman and ranking member of the Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations Committees. In addition, the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Intelligence Committee would also be invited to serve as ex-officio members. Senators SHAHEEN and TILLIS, both Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, would be named the cochairs, and a small group of Senators active on NATO issues would be named to the group jointly by the leaders and cochairs.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today I am pleased to join my colleague the Republican leader in reestablishing the Senate NATO Observer Group. In the late 1940s, under the stewardship of President Harry Truman, the United States led our Western allies in the creation of an unprecedented arrangement to provide for our collective defense. Since then, NATO has guaranteed the security of our European allies and has come to our aid, protecting the United States in its darkest hours following the 9/11 attacks. Today, new threats are emerging from Russia and along NATO's southern border, making the alliance more necessary than ever. It is the responsibility of the Senate to be kept abreast of any and all factors affecting such a key component of our national defense.

The Senate NATO Observer group was first established in 1997 and oversaw the enlargement of our alliance to countries recently freed from Soviet domination in Eastern Europe. Following the reestablishment of the group in 2002 by Majority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota and Minority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi, the Senate NATO Observer group had an oversight role during the NATO mission in Afghanistan—again, the only time a NATO member has invoked the right to collective self-defense.

Unfortunately, since talks of further enlargement of the alliance expired 10 years ago, the Senate Observer Group lapsed. Since that time, Russia has reasserted itself in Eastern Europe through the aggressive use of hybrid warfare, including cyber infiltration of our allies' political infrastructure, as well as our own. While Georgia considered eventual NATO membership, Russia invaded and occupied South Ossetia and Abkhazia, regions which remain in Russian hands today. A similar fate befell Ukraine in 2014, when Russia's ''little green men'' were inserted into a civil conflict that spilled over into a civil war in which thousands of people died.

As we learned during the 2016 Presidential election, the Kremlin's aggressive posture extends far beyond Russia's borders. American intelligence agencies have shown conclusively that Russia has interfered in elections at

home and abroad using a sophisticated array of cyber attacks and disinformation to undermine confidence in the American political process and in Western democracy writ large. Neither the United States nor our NATO allies are immune from such attacks. That is why it is imperative that we continue to invest in and strengthen that alliance. Moreover, it is why the U.S. Senate must be actively involved in ensuring that our most important alliance remains alert to the serious issues before us.

There are several pressing issues on which the observer group will immediately begin work on. NATO recently established a naval command for the Atlantic, dedicated to ensuring the freedom of the seas, a policy the United States has steadfastly upheld since the early days of the republic. In addition to an increased focus on protecting the sea lanes between Europe and North America, a new NATO logistics command and a cyber operations center are being formed in response to the continued aggressive posture of Russian forces along NATO's eastern border. Cyber defense in particular should be of acute interest to Senators in this group. Russian cyber attacks have damaged countries around the world and continue to threaten critical infrastructure in the United States. I look forward to learning how NATO will integrate each nation's cyber defense knowledge into its own and how we might learn from our allies about how best to protect ourselves from cyber warfare.

This Congress began with a unanimous vote reaffirming the United States' commitment to article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty. There can be no doubt that the Senate remains firmly committed to transatlantic security and to countering the malign influence of a hostile Kremlin at home and abroad. The opportunity to learn from our allies and prepare for the future is too important. So I am glad that my colleagues Senators SHAHEEN and TILLIS have spearheaded the reestablishment of the NATO Observer Group, on which they will serve as cochairs.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 18–06, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Mexico for defense articles and services estimated to cost $1.2 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

GREGORY M. KAUSNER,
(For Charles W. Hooper,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 18–06

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Mexico.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* $.8 billion.

Other $.4 billion.

Total $1.2 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Eight (8) MH–60R Multi-Mission Helicopters, equipped with:

Twenty (20) T–700 GE 401 C Engines (16 installed and 4 spares).

Sixteen (16) APS–153(V) Multi-Mode Radars (8 installed, 8 spares).

Ten (10) Airborne Low Frequency System (ALFS) (8 installed and 2 spares).

Twelve (12) AN/AAS–44C Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems Forward Looking Infrared Systems (8 installed, 4 spares).

Twenty (20) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (16 installed and 4 spares).

Thirty (30) AN/AVS–9 Night Vision Devices.

One thousand (1,000) AN/SSQ–36/53/62 Sonobuoys.

Ten (10) AGM–114 Hellfire Missiles.

Five (5) AGM–114 M36–E9 Captive Air Training Missiles.

Four (4) AGM–114Q Hellfire Training Missiles.

Thirty eight (38) Advanced Precision Kill Weapons System (APKWS) II Rockets.

Thirty (30) Mk -54 Lightweight Hybrid Torpedoes (LHTs).

Twelve (12) M–240D Machine Guns.

Twelve (12) GAU–21 Machine Guns.

Non-MDE: Also included are twelve (12) AN/ARC–220 High Frequency radios; fourteen (14) AN/APX–123 Identification Friend or Foe Transponders (8 installed and 6 spares); spare engine containers; facilities study, design, and construction; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communication equipment; ferry support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (MX–P–SAA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 18, 2018

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Mexico—MH–60R Multi-Mission Helicopters

The Government of Mexico has requested to buy eight (8) MH–60R Multi-Mission Helicopters, equipped with: twenty (20) T–700 GE 401 C engines (16 installed and 4 spares); sixteen (16) APS–153(V) Multi-Mode radars (8 installed, 8 spares); ten (10) Airborne Low Frequency Systems (ALFS) (8 installed and 2 spares); fourteen (14) AN/APX–123 Identification Friend or Foe transponders (8 installed and 6 spares); twelve (12) AN/AAS–44C Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems Forward Looking Infrared Systems (8 installed, 4 spares); twenty (20) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (16 installed and 4 spares); thirty (30) AN/AVS–9 Night Vision Devices; one thousand (1,000) AN/SSQ–36/53/62 Sonobuoys; ten (10) AGM–114 Hellfire missiles; five (5) AGM–114 M36–E9 Captive Air Training missiles; four (4) AGM–114Q Hellfire training missiles; thirty eight (38) Advanced Precision Kill Weapons System (APKWS) II rockets; thirty (30) Mk 54 Lightweight Hybrid Torpedoes (LHTs); twelve (12) M–240D machine guns; twelve (12) GAU–21 Machine Guns. Also included are twelve (12) AN/ARC–220 High Frequency radios; spare engine containers; facilities study, design, and construction; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communication equipment; ferry support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated value is $1.20 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic regional partner. Mexico has been a strong partner in combating organized crime and drug trafficking organizations. The sale of these aircraft to Mexico will significantly increase and strengthen its maritime capabilities. Mexico intends to use these defense articles and services to modernize its armed forces and expand its existing naval and maritime support of national security requirements and in its efforts to combat criminal organizations.

The proposed sale will improve Mexico's ability to meet current and future threats from enemy weapon systems. The MH–60R Multi-Mission Helicopter will enable Mexico to perform anti-surface and antisubmarine warfare missions and secondary missions including vertical replenishment, search and rescue, and communications relay. Mexico will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen its homeland defense. Mexico will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems in Owego, New York. There are no known offset agreements in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of additional U.S.

Government and/or contractor representatives to Mexico.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 18–06

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The MH–60R Multi-Mission Helicopter focuses primarily on anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare missions. The MH–60R carries several sensors and data links to enhance its ability to work in a network centric battle group as an extension of its home ship/main operating base. The mission equipment subsystem consists of the following sensors and subsystems: an acoustics systems consisting of a dipping sonar and sonobuoys, Multi-Mode Radar (MMR) with integral Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) interrogator, Electronic Support Measures (ESM), Integrated Self-Defense (ISD), and Multi-Spectral Targeting System (MTS). Also, Night Vision Devices (AN/AVS–9) for CONOPS and interoperability with USN. It can carry AGM–114A/B/K Hellfire missiles, as well as Mk 46/54 torpedoes to engage surface and sub-surface targets. The Mexican MH–60R platform will include provisions for the Mk 54 light weight torpedo. The MH–60R weapons system is classified up to SECRET. Unless otherwise noted below, MH–60R hardware and support equipment, test equipment, and maintenance spares are UNCLASSIFIED except when electrical power is applied to hardware containing volatile data storage. Technical data and documentation for MH–60R weapons systems (including sub-systems and weapons listed below) are classified up to SECRET. The sensitive technologies include:

a. The AGM–114 HELLFIRE missile is an air-to-surface missile with a multi-mission, multi-target, precision strike capability. The HELLFIRE can be launched from multiple air platforms and is the primary precision weapon for the United States Army. The highest level for release of the AGM–114 HELLFIRE is SECRET, based upon the software. The highest level of classified information that could be disclosed by a proposed sale or by testing of the end item is SECRET; the highest level that must be disclosed for production, maintenance, or training is CONFIDENTIAL. Reverse engineering could reveal CONFIDENTIAL information. Vulnerability data, countermeasures, vulnerability/susceptibility analyses, and threat definitions are classified SECRET or CONFIDENTIAL.

b. Advanced Precision Kill Weapons System (APKWS) II laser guided rocket to counter the fast attack craft and fast inshore attack craft threat. APKWS hardware is UNCLASSIFIED.

c. The light-weight hybrid air launched torpedo (Mk 54 LHT) is for surface and subsurface targets. The acquisition of Mk–54 LHT will include ancillary equipment and publications.

d. Communications security devices contain sensitive encryption algorithms and keying material. The purchasing country has previously been released and utilizes COMSEC devices in accordance with set procedures and without issue. COMSEC devices will be classified up to SECRET when keys are loaded.

e. Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) (KIV–78) contains embedded security devices containing sensitive encryption algorithms and keying material. The purchasing country will utilize COMSEC devices in accordance with set procedures. The AN/APX–123 is classified up to SECRET.

f. GPS/PPS/SAASM—Global Positioning System (GPS) provides a space-based Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) that has reliable location and time information in all weather and at all times and anywhere on or near the earth when and where there is an unobstructed line of sight to four or more GPS satellites. Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) (AN/PSN–11) is used by military GPS receivers to allow decryption of precision GPS coordinates. The GPS hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. When electrical power is applied, the system is classified up to SECRET.

g. Acoustics algorithms are used to process dipping sonar and sonobuoy data for target tracking and for the Acoustics Mission Planner (AMP), which is a tactical aid employed to optimize the deployment of sonobuoys and the dipping sonar. Acoustics hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. The acoustics system is classified up to SECRET when environmental and threat databases are loaded and/or the system is processing acoustic data.

h. The AN/APS–153 multi-mode radar with an integrated IFF and Inverse Synthetic Aperture (ISAR) provides target surveillance/detection capability. The AN/APS–153 hardware is unclassified. When electrical power is applied and mission data loaded, the AN/APS–153 is classified up to SECRET.

i. The AN/ALQ–210 (ESM) system identifies the location of an emitter. The ability of the system to identify specific emitters depends on the data provided by the Mexican Navy. The AN/ALQ–210 hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. When electrical power is applied and mission data loaded, the AN/ALQ–210 system is classified up to SECRET.

j. The AN/AAS–44C Forward Looking Infrared Radar (FLIR) uses the Multi-spectral Targeting System (MTS) that allows it to operate in day/night and adverse weather conditions. Imagery is provided by an Infrared sensor, a color/monochrome DTV, and a Low-Light TV. The AN/AAS–44C hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. When electrical power is applied, the AN/AAS–44C is classified up to SECRET.

k. Satellite Communications Demand Assigned Multiple Access (SATCOM DAMA), which provide increased, interoperable communications capabilities with US forces. SATCOM DAMA hardware is UNCLASSIFIED. When electrical power is applied and mission data loaded these systems are classified up to SECRET.

2. All the mission data, including sensitive parameters, is loaded from an off board station before each flight and does not stay with the aircraft after electrical power has been removed. Sensitive technologies are protected as defined in the program protection and anti-tamper plans. The mission data and off board station are classified up to SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures which might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the recipient country can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Mexico.

I AM FOR THE CHILD DAY

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the first annual I am for the Child Day on April 18, 2018, sponsored by the Wisconsin Court Appointed Special Advocates, CASA, Association and the National CASA Association. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and Wisconsin CASA champions the needs of abused and neglected children. Over 6,000 Wisconsin children are in foster care; yet only 690 are assigned trained volunteers who can advocate for their safety and well-being while under the protection of the courts and child welfare agencies. The goal of the first annual I am for the Child Day is to raise awareness about the need for volunteers and the crippling impacts of child abuse and neglect on vulnerable children. I am proud to honor the WI CASA organization and the dedicated volunteers whose voice can speak for these children.

The Wisconsin CASA Association is a charitable, nonprofit member of the National CASA Association network. The association supports local programs throughout the State of Wisconsin in La Crosse, Vernon, Monroe, Brown, Marinette, Outagamie, Rock, Columbia, Dane, Manitowoc, Sauk, and Milwaukee Counties. Court appointed special advocates are community volunteers who champion the needs of abused and neglected children. They are sworn ''friends of the court'' acting under the jurisdiction of an appointing judge. Their work strengthens outcomes for children involved in an overstrained social welfare system. They provide advocacy for children's health, safety, emotional and physical development, family interaction, education, faith, recreation, and the cultural continuity that children need to thrive.

These volunteers interact with parents, caregivers, siblings, extended family members, foster parents, teachers, counselors, and healthcare providers to monitor the children's educational progress and social development. Their observations ultimately cultivate important recommendations for the court. Research shows that CASA volunteers strengthen outcomes for children, enhance child safety, reduce time spent in foster care, and improve the services the children receive.

CASA organizations are accelerating their advocacy by designating April 18 as the first annual I am for the Child Day with the goal of bringing awareness to child abuse everywhere and to help these children navigate a tumultuous life experience. Once again, I commend the Wisconsin Court Appointed Special Advocates Association on their admirable work and look forward to celebrating their accomplishments in the future.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL FLEAGLE

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President. I would like to say a few words about a

former member of my staff, Mike Fleagle, who has recently left my office and, unfortunately for Alaska, accepted a job in Colorado.

Mike was one of the very first people to join my team when I took office in 2014. I lured Mike away from his great job as the facilities maintenance supervisor for Alaska's largest city and was honored that he wanted to join me in serving our fellow Alaskans.

When you meet Mike, it doesn't take long to see the thoughtfulness and kindness by which he lives his life and treats others. He has a can-do attitude and an incredible knowledge base for so many important issues for Alaskans: aviation, rural affairs, transportation, energy, and subsistence. He brought to our office a trove of knowledge about hunting and fishing that he obtained in his 14 years of experience as chairman and member of Alaska's Board of Game and the Federal Subsistence Board, in addition to being a lifelong outdoorsman.

Mike was a true pleasure to have on the team. He loves Alaska and that always showed in the excellent quality of his work. Mike loves to hunt, fish, and hike, and he loves his family and is a devoted husband and father.

We will miss Mike very much, and I am very grateful for the time he spent in my office helping Alaskans.

TRIBUTE TO KATE O'CONNOR

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words about Kate O'Connor, a former member of my staff who recently left to pursue another opportunity in public service.

She is now working at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, where she will continue her focus on telecommunications and information policy.

Kate was one of the first staffers I hired after being sworn in to the Senate in January 2015.

She started as a legislative correspondent and was integral in establishing and managing our constituent correspondence system. Her talent, work ethic, and interest in Alaska elevated her to a legislative assistant, where she oversaw issues related to the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, as well as education and healthcare.

Kate understood firsthand the unique challenges Alaska faces, particularly in regard to broadband deployment and reliable internet access. She played a critical role in helping to usher an Alaska specific plan through the FCC, a plan that will help bridge the digital divide by bringing more advanced broadband services to rural Alaska.

It was during her time at the University of Chicago, where she was pursuing a bachelor's of arts in public policy from the university, when she ventured north to my great State of Alaska for an internship in Juneau.

She fell in love with my State, as so many people do, and I am confident that she will go on to be a great ambassador for Alaska.

Kate's positive attitude, her work ethic, and her love for Alaska will definitely be missed. I wish her all the best.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING CLEAR CHANNEL OUTDOOR-LAS VEGAS

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I am honored to congratulate the dedicated staff at Clear Channel Outdoor, in Las Vegas, NV, for earning the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, Director's Community Leadership Award. On April 20, 2018, representatives from Clear Channel Outdoor will join the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, DC, to formally accept this much-deserved recognition.

The FBI's special agents in 56 field offices work closely with the community to conduct investigations and to protect the American people from crimes and acts of extremism. In appreciation, special agents in FBI field offices nominate community leaders and organizations that exemplify their values and those who work tirelessly to assist them in their work to keep the community safe. The Director's Community Leadership Award honors these individuals and organizations for their leadership in combating crime, terrorism, drugs, and violence in America. Earning this award is no easy feat.

This award recognizes Clear Channel Outdoor-Las Vegas for their steadfast efforts to provide digital billboard services that assisted law enforcement in generating thousands of leads and tips, following the tragic and senseless loss of life at the Route 91 Festival on October 1, 2017, in Las Vegas. Clear Channel Outdoor-Las Vegas donated billboard space on digital signs around the city of Las Vegas to expand law enforcement's reach, telling the community, ''If you see something, say something.''

In Las Vegas, the October 1 tragedy shocked our community but also spurred us to action. During that dark time, Las Vegans came together to drop off food and water at the Family Reunification Center, donate blood, and build beautiful memorials to honor those killed. I am proud of how our community came together, of how law enforcement acted to protect lives and ensure that residents and visitors felt protected following such a tragic incident. I am also proud of the Clear Channel Outdoor-Las Vegas staff, who joined as part of our community effort, answering the call to assist local law enforcement and educate our community at large. Clear Channel Outdoor-Las Vegas's actions helped rebuild and strengthen the bonds that make Las Vegas the beautiful place we call home.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Clear Channel Outdoor-Las Vegas for their generosity, their eagerness, and their empathy in helping their fellow citizens and for their endeavors to help our home heal from this senseless tragedy. I celebrate the FBI's recognition of Clear Channel Outdoor-Las Vegas, and I am proud of their work on behalf of law enforcement and the State of Nevada.•

TRIBUTE TO GERARD ''JERRY'' LACHANCE

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, this month, I am proud to recognize Gerard ''Jerry'' Lachance of Sandown, NH, as our Granite Stater of the Month in honor of his incredible dedication to supporting our veterans.

At 70 years old, Jerry is currently on a more than 2,000-mile journey by bike from Florida to the northernmost tip of New Hampshire to raise funds for Project Hero, a nonprofit that builds adaptive bikes and helps support veterans and first responders impacted by injury and posttraumatic stress disorder.

Jerry, an avid cyclist for 12 years, a volunteer firefighter of more than 20 years for the Sandown Fire Rescue, and a Vietnam veteran, wanted to find a way to give back and support the brave servicemembers he considers to be his heroes. During one of Project Hero's honor rides, Jerry met a veteran who lost his leg during his service. The veteran was using an adaptive bike that he received from Project Hero, which inspired Jerry to do more to help the organization.

In 2016, Jerry biked from the New Hampshire-Canadian border to Key West, FL, with the goal of raising $5,000, but his community was so inspired by Jerry's ride that he ended up raising $25,000 for Project Hero.

This year, over the course of his 40-day ride, Jerry hopes to raise another $25,000 to support our veterans.

We owe our brave veterans and servicemembers a debt of gratitude that we can never truly repay, but we must try. Efforts like Jerry's are an example for all of us of the dedication and support we can give to those who have sacrificed bravely for our country.

Jerry Lachance has proven to be a shining example of how we can support our veterans, and he embodies the values and all-hands-on-deck spirit of the Granite State. I thank Jerry for both his own military service and his commitment to our veterans, and I am honored to recognize him as our Granite Stater of the Month.•

RECOGNIZING VERMONT MEALS ON WHEELS

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the extraordinary work of Vermont's Meals on Wheels programs. All across the State, hundreds of volunteers regularly deliver freshly cooked nutritious meals to thousands of seniors in their homes, many of whom otherwise might not have

enough to eat. These volunteers play a critically important role helping ensure that older Vermonters have access to adequate nutrition. That, in and of itself, is no small matter.

These volunteers do much more than just deliver a meal. They also provide invaluable social interaction and companionship for the seniors they visit, which goes a long way to combat the effects of isolation that many older Vermonters face, especially in rural areas. Without this social interaction, seniors are more likely to have feelings of loneliness and depression, which puts them at higher risk for dementia, chronic disease, falls, and hospitalization.

The regular visits serve another purpose as well. The volunteers routinely check to make sure that the seniors are safe, secure, and warm. They know each person they visit and recognize immediately if something doesn't seem right. It is no exaggeration to say that they have saved Vermonters' lives by checking when no one answers the door, taking the time to discover that someone had fallen and been injured.

Every single Meals on Wheels volunteer has my sincere appreciation for their remarkable work.

I would also like to recognize the caring and dedicated professionals that run Vermont's Meals on Wheel these programs, from the chefs who prepare the nutritious meals that the volunteers deliver, to the program staff who ensure that everything runs smoothly. Together, these agencies served more than 1 million meals in Vermont last year alone. They form an indispensable component of our social safety net for older Vermonters.

Last month was ''March for Meals,'' when Meals on Wheels programs across the country expand their outreach to draw attention to the growing need for the services these agencies provide. I am enormously pleased that many of my Vermont staff rode along with Meals on Wheels volunteers across the State to see the wonderful work they are doing.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:18 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1512. An act to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the reissuance of Social Security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised.

H.R. 4403. An act to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to protect personally identifiable information, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5192. An act to authorize the Commissioner of Social Security to provide confirmation of fraud protection data to certain permitted entities, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 115. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 7:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 167. An act to designate a National Memorial to Fallen Educators at the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1512. An act to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the reissuance of Social Security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 4403. An act to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to protect personally identifiable information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5192. An act to authorize the Commissioner of Social Security to provide confirmation of fraud protection data to certain permitted entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following concurrent resolutions were discharged from the Committee on the Budget pursuant to Section 300 of the Congressional Budget Act, and placed on the calendar:

S. Con. Res. 36. Concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2019 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2020 through 2028.

S. Con. Res. 37. Concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2019 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2020 through 2028.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–4921. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment) transmitting, pursuant to law, the National Defense Stockpile (NDS) Annual Materials Plan (AMP) for fiscal year 2019 and the succeeding four years, fiscal years 2020 - 2023; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4922. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Secretary of Defense entering into an agreement with a Federally Funded Research Development Center (FFRDC) to provide an independent analysis of the feasibility of developing a budget request for the full Future Years Defense Program (FYDP); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4923. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Joseph P. DiSalvo, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4924. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4925. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Kenneth E. Tovo, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4926. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals relative to the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–4927. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2018 Fiscal-year Blended Tax Rates for Corporations'' (Rev. Proc. 2018–38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4928. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Interim Notice regarding the post-enactment application of Rev. Proc. 2004–34'' (Rev. Proc. 2018–35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4929. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Depreciation Deductions for Passenger Automobiles'' (Rev. Proc. 2018–25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4930. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Contract Year 2019 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage, Medicare Cost Plan, Medicare Fee-for-Service, the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Programs, and the PACE Program'' ((RIN0938–AT08) (CMS–4182–F)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 12, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4931. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, two reports relative to the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (the New START Treaty) (OSS–2018–0460); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4932. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Italy to support the final assembly and check-out facility of F–35 aircraft in the amount of

$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17–088); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4933. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Israel to support the manufacture, integration, installation, operation, testing, maintenance, and repair of the 120mm GPS Phase 1 and (SAL/GPS) Phase 2 Dual Mode Mortar in the amount of $100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17–087); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4934. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms and accessories abroad controlled under Category I of the United States Munitions List to Saudi Arabia in the amount of $1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17–054); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4935. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the United Arab Emirates for integration and installation into military vehicles in the amount of $50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17–009); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4936. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces to provide training, maintenance, and engineering support on AT–802U and S2R–660 Archangel border patrol aircraft in the amount of $50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 16–081); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4937. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the United Kingdom Ministry of Defense to support the assessment, demonstration, and manufacture phase of the Scavenger/PROTECTOR Program and the subsequent follow on phases in the amount of $100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 17–080); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4938. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rules of Practice for Protests and Appeals Regarding Eligibility for Inclusion in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Verification and Evaluation Database'' (RIN3245–AG87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2018; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2113. A bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for design and construction services are awarded, to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115–231).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 2413. A bill to provide for the appropriate use of bridge contracts in Federal procurement, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115–232).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. ISAKSON for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

*Joseph L. Falvey, Jr., of Michigan, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for the term of fifteen years.

*Paul R. Lawrence, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 2692. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4558 Broadway in New York, New York, as the ''Stanley Michels Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 2693. A bill to clarify the status and enhance the effectiveness of immigration courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 2694. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to lengthen the statute of limitations for enforcing robocall violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. UDALL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2695. A bill to require additional disclosures relating to donations to the Presidential Inaugural Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2696. A bill to provide grants to States to improve and coordinate their response to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of children at high risk for abuse and neglect; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2697. A bill to require the awareness campaign regarding the risk of abuse of prescription opioids if such drugs are not taken as prescribed to include information about dispensing options; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2698. A bill to make necessary reforms to improve compliance with loss mitigation requirements by servicers of mortgages for single family housing insured by the FHA, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2699. A bill to amend title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education that participate in programs under such title to distribute voter registration forms to students enrolled at the institution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN:

S. 2700. A bill provide emergency assistance to States, territories, Tribal nations, and local areas affected by the opioid epidemic and to make financial assistance available to States, territories, Tribal nations, local areas, and public or private nonprofit entities to provide for the development, organization, coordination, and operation of more effective and cost efficient systems for the delivery of essential services to individuals with substance use disorder and their families; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2701. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out a pilot program to enhance the mapping of urban flooding and associated property damage and the availability of that mapped data to homeowners, businesses, and localities to help understand and mitigate the risk of such flooding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2702. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to clarify the authority of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection with respect to persons regulated by a State insurance regulator, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2703. A bill to authorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 2704. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of methadone under Medicare part B; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2705. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to expand and clarify the prohibition on inaccurate caller identification information and to require providers of telephone service to offer technology to subscribers to reduce the incidence of unwanted telephone calls and text messages, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 2706. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide snow removal assistance to Indian tribes under a Federal emergency declaration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 2707. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide educational resources regarding opioid use and pain management as part of the Medicare & You handbook; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 2708. A bill to provide for the establishment of Medicare part E public health plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 2709. A bill to statutorily establish Operation Stonegarden, through which eligible law enforcement agencies shall be awarded grants for border security enhancement; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. NELSON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COONS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WARNER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. REED):

S. Res. 473. A resolution expressing no confidence in the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and calling for the immediate resignation of the Administrator; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 474. A resolution relative to the death of the Honorable John Melcher, Senator from the State of Montana; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. Res. 475. A resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of the North American Aerospace Defense Command; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BURR):

S. Res. 476. A resolution designating April 2018 as ''National 9–1–1 Education Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. Con. Res. 36. A concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2019 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2020 through 2028; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. Con. Res. 37. A concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2019 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2020 through 2028; placed on the calendar.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 266

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 266, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Anwar Sadat in recognition of his heroic achievements and courageous contributions to peace in the Middle East.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide access to magnetic EEG/EKG-guided resonance therapy to veterans.

S. 994

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 994, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for the protection of community centers with religious affiliation, and for other purposes.

S. 1121

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1121, a bill to establish a postsecondary student data system.

S. 1503

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1503, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

S. 1633

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1633, a bill to promote innovative approaches to outdoor recreation on Federal land and to open up opportunities for collaboration with non-Federal partners, and for other purposes.

S. 1703

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1703, a bill to amend section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow certain alien veterans to be paroled into the United States to receive health care furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 1704

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1704, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a veterans visa program to permit veterans who have been removed from the United States to return as immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 1725

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1725, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to identify each alien who has served, or is serving, in the Armed Forces of the United States when any alien applies for an immigration benefit or is placed in an immigration enforcement proceeding, and for other purposes.

S. 1727

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1727, a bill to establish a naturalization office at every initial military training site.

S. 1730

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 1730, a bill to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 1857

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1857, a bill to establish a compliance deadline of May 15, 2023, for Step 2 emissions standards for new residential wood heaters, new residential hydronic heaters, and forced-air furnaces.

S. 2038

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2038, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in Korea, and for other purposes.

S. 2061

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2061, a bill to further deployment of Next Generation 9–1–1 services to enhance and upgrade the Nation's 9–1–1 systems, and for other purposes.

S. 2488

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2488, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to exclude the receipt of basic allowance for housing for members of the Armed Forces in determining eligibility for certain Federal benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 2497

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2497, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriations of funds to Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2516

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2516, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a demonstration program to test alternative pain management protocols to limit the use of opioids in emergency departments.

S. 2565

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2565, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain training or vocational rehabilitation, and for other purposes.

S. 2680

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of S. 2680, a bill to address the opioid crisis.

At the request of Mr. ALEXANDER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2680, supra.

S. RES. 168

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 168, a resolution supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia.

S. RES. 407

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 407, a resolution recognizing the critical work of human rights defenders in promoting human rights, the rule of law, democracy, and good governance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2701. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out a pilot program to enhance the mapping of urban flooding and associated property damage and the availability of that mapped data to homeowners, businesses, and localities to help understand and mitigate the risk of such flooding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2701

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Flood Mapping Modernization and Homeowner Empowerment Pilot Program Act of 2018''.

SEC. 2. FLOOD MAPPING MODERNIZATION AND HOMEOWNER EMPOWERMENT PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) COASTAL.—The term ''coastal'' means, with respect to a unit of general local government, that the unit borders a body of water that—

(A) is more than 2,000 square miles in size; and

(B) is not a river.

(3) PELAGIC.—The term ''pelagic'' means, with respect to a unit of general local government, that—

(A) the unit is a coastal unit; and

(B) the body of water that the unit borders is—

(i) an ocean; or

(ii) a large, open body of water, including a bay or a gulf, that empties into an ocean.

(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ''pilot program'' means the pilot program carried out by the Administrator under this section.

(5) URBAN FLOODING.—The term ''urban flooding''—

(A) means the innundation, by water, of property in a built environment, particularly in a densely populated area, that—

(i) is caused by falling rain—

(I) collecting on an impervious surface; or

(II) increasing the level of a body of water that is located near that built environment; and

(ii) overwhelms the capacity of drainage systems in the built environment, such as storm sewers;

(B) includes—

(i) a situation in which stormwater enters a building through a window, door, or other opening;

(ii) the backup of water through a sewer pipe, shower, toilet, sink, or floor drain;

(iii) the seepage of water through a wall or a floor;

(iv) the accumulation of water on property or a public right-of-way; and

(v) the overflow from a body of water, such as a river, lake, or ocean; and

(C) does not include flooding in an undeveloped or agricultural area.

(6) URBANIZED AREA.—The term ''urbanized area'' means an area that has been defined and designated as an urbanized area by the Bureau of the Census during the most recently completed decennial census.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall carry out a pilot program to make grants to units of local government to—

(1) enhance the production of maps relating to urban flooding and associated property damage; and

(2) increase the availability of the maps described in paragraph (1) to homeowners, businesses, and units of local government to enable those entities to minimize the risk of urban flooding.

(c) OBJECTIVES.—Amounts from grants made under the pilot program may be used only to carry out activities that meet the following objectives:

(1) Developing a methodology for assessing the risk of urban flooding through the deployment of technology-based mapping tools that—

(A) are easily understandable by the public; and

(B) effectively convey information regarding the level of flood risk.

(2) Providing structure-specific projections of annual chance flood frequency.

(3) Providing structure-based flood risk assessments.

(4) Providing program design for the mitigation of the risk of urban flooding.

(5) Incorporating information regarding climate trends into urban flooding risk assessments.

(6) Making the information described in this subsection publicly available on the Internet through a web-based portal so as to increase transparency regarding homeowner flood risks.

(d) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under the pilot program may be made only to—

(A) a unit of general local government that is located in an urbanized area with a population of more than 50,000 individuals; or

(B) a stormwater management authority of a unit of general local government described in subparagraph (A).

(2) ONE-TIME GRANTS.—A grant under the pilot program may not be made to—

(A) any unit of general local governmental, or the stormwater management authority of a unit of general local government, that previously received a grant under the pilot program;

(B) any unit of general local government if the stormwater management agency for that unit previously received a grant under the pilot program; or

(C) any stormwater management agency of a unit of general local government if that unit previously received a grant under the pilot program.

(3) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a stormwater management authority that operates with respect to more than 1 unit of general local government, the application of that authority shall be considered for purposes of paragraph (2) of this subsection and subsections (f), (g), and (h)(1) to be made for the largest unit of general local government with respect to which that authority operates.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) may be construed to limit the ability of a stormwater management authority described in that subparagraph to carry out activities under a demonstration project in any other jurisdiction in, or with respect to any other unit of local government with, which that authority operates.

(e) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under the pilot program, a unit of general local government or a stormwater management agency shall submit to the Administrator an application in such form and containing such information as the Administrator shall require.

(f) SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS.—

(1) ANNUAL SELECTION.—Subject to paragraph (2), and to the submission of approvable applications, in each fiscal year for which amounts are made available for grants under the pilot program, the Administrator shall select, from among applications submitted under subsection (e) for that fiscal year, 3 units of general government or stormwater management authorities to receive grants under the pilot program.

(2) AGGREGATE LIMIT.—Subject only to the submission of approvable applications, the Administrator shall select, in the aggregate over the entire duration of the pilot program, 12 units of general government or stormwater management authorities to receive grants under the pilot program, as follows:

(A) TIER 1.—3 of the applicants selected shall be units of general local government, or stormwater management authorities for those units, each of which has a population of more than 800,000 individuals, as follows:

(i) PELAGIC COASTAL CITY.—One shall be—

(I) a unit of general local government that is a pelagic unit; or

(II) a stormwater authority for a unit described in subclause (I).

(ii) NON-PELAGIC COASTAL CITY.—One shall be—

(I) a unit of general local government that—

(aa) is a coastal unit; and

(bb) is not a pelagic unit; or

(II) a stormwater authority for a unit described in subclause (I).

(iii) NON-COASTAL CITY.—One shall be—

(I) a unit of general local government that is not a coastal unit; or

(II) a stormwater authority for a unit described in subclause (I).

(B) TIER 2.—Six of the applicants selected shall be units of general local government, or stormwater management authorities for such units, each of which has a population that is more than 200,000 individuals and not more than 800,000 individuals, as follows:

(i) COASTAL CITIES.—Three shall be—

(I) units of general local government that are coastal units; or

(II) stormwater management authorities for units described in subclause (I).

(ii) NON-COASTAL CITIES.—Three shall be—

(I) units of general local government that are not coastal units; or

(II) stormwater management authorities for units described in subclause (I).

(C) TIER 3.—Three of the applicants selected shall be—

(i) units of general local government, each of which has a population that is more than 50,000 individuals but not more than 200,000 individuals; or

(ii) stormwater management authorities for units described in clause (i).

(g) PRIORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall select applicants for grants under the pilot program based on the extent to which the applications of those applicants shall achieve the objectives described in subsection (c).

(2) TIERS 2 AND 3.—In selecting applicants to receive grants under the pilot program under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (f)(2), the Administrator shall give priority to applicants—

(A) that are highly vulnerable to sea level rise;

(B) within which are located a military installation or another facility relating to national security concerns; or

(C) that have—

(i) populations that are highly vulnerable to urban flooding; and

(ii) an uneven capacity for flood mitigation and response efforts resulting from socioeconomic factors.

(h) AMOUNT.—

(1) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the amount of a grant under the pilot program, the Administrator shall consider the population of the grant recipient, which may be considered in terms of the tier under subsection (f)(2) with respect to the recipient.

(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The amount of a grant under the pilot program may not exceed 75 percent of the total cost incurred in carrying out the activities described in subsection (c).

(i) DURATION.—The Administrator shall require each recipient of a grant under the pilot program to complete the activities described in subsection (c), which shall be, subject to subsection (h)(2), carried out using the grant amounts, not later than 18 months after the date on which the recipient initially receives the grant amounts under the pilot program.

(j) USE OF CENSUS DATA.—The Administrator shall make all determinations regarding population under the pilot program by using data from the most recently completed decennial census by the Bureau of the Census.

(k) GRANTEE REPORTS TO FEMA.—Each recipient of a grant under the pilot program shall, not later than 30 months after the date on which the recipient initially receives the grant amounts, submit to the Administrator a report that describes—

(1) the activities carried out with the grant amounts;

(2) how the activities carried out with the grant amounts have met the objectives described in subsection (c);

(3) any lessons learned in carrying out the activities described in paragraph (2); and

(4) any recommendations for future mapping modernization efforts by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(l) BIENNIAL REPORTS BY FEMA.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter until the date on which all activities carried out with amounts from grants under the pilot program are completed, the Administrator shall submit to Congress and make available to the public on an Internet website a report that—

(1) describes—

(A) the progress of the activities carried out with amounts from those grants; and

(B) the effectiveness of technology-based mapping tools used in carrying out the activities described in subparagraph (A); and

(2) with respect to the final report that the Administrator is required to submit under this subsection, includes recommendations to Congress and the executive branch of the Federal Government for implementing strategies, practices, and technologies to mitigate the effects of urban flooding.

(m) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, because the pilot program is limited with respect to scope and resources, communities that participate in the pilot program should acknowledge that the most successful efforts to mitigate the effects of urban flooding—

(1) take a structural-based mitigation approach with respect to construction, which includes—

(A) recognizing any post-storm damage that may occur; and

(B) pursuing designs that proactively minimize future flood damage;

(2) make individuals in the community aware, through any cost-effective and available means of education, of the best approaches regarding the construction of properties that are able to survive floods, which reduces the cost of future repairs; and

(3) encourage home and property owners to consider the measures described in paragraphs (1) and (2), which are the most cost-effective and prudent ways to reduce the impact of flooding, when constructing or renovating building components.

(n) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appropriated for grants under the pilot program—

(1) $1,200,000 for fiscal year 2019; and

(2) $4,300,000 for fiscal year 2020, to remain available through 2022.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2703. A bill to authorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2703

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act—

(1) the term ''firearms offenses'' means an offense under section 922 or 924 of title 18, United States Code;

(2) the term ''Program'' means the Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program established under section 3; and

(3) the term ''transnational organized crime group'' has the meaning given such term in section 36(k)(6) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(k)(6)).

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.

The Attorney General of the United States is authorized to establish and carry out a program, to be known as the ''Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program'' within the Office of Justice Programs at the Department of Justice.

SEC. 4. PURPOSE.

(a) PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.—The purpose of the Program is to foster and improve existing partnerships between Federal, State, and local

agencies, including the United States Attorney in each Federal judicial district, entities representing members of the community affected by increased violence, victims' advocates, and researchers to create safer neighborhoods through sustained reductions in violent crimes by—

(1) developing and executing comprehensive strategic plans to reduce violent crimes, including the enforcement of gun laws, and prioritizing efforts focused on identified subsets of individuals or organizations responsible for increasing violence in a particular geographic area;

(2) developing evidence-based and data-driven intervention and prevention initiatives, including juvenile justice projects and activities which may include street-level outreach, conflict mediation, provision of treatment and social services, and the changing of community norms, in order to reduce violence; and

(3) collecting data on outcomes achieved through the Program, including the effect on the violent crime rate, incarceration rate, and recidivism rate of the jurisdiction.

(b) ADDITIONAL PURPOSE AREAS.—In addition to the purpose described in subsection (a), the Attorney General may use funds authorized under this Act for any of the following purposes—

(1) competitive and evidence-based programs to reduce gun crime and gang violence;

(2) the Edward Byrne criminal justice innovation program;

(3) community-based violence prevention initiatives; or

(4) gang and youth violence education, prevention and intervention, and related activities.

SEC. 5. RULES AND REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall promulgate rules to create, carry out, and administer the Program in accordance with this section.

(b) FUNDS TO BE DIRECTED TO LOCAL CONTROL.—Amounts made available as grants under the Program shall be, to the greatest extent practicable, locally controlled to address problems that are identified locally.

(c) REGIONAL GANG TASK FORCES.—30 percent of the amounts made available as grants under the Program each fiscal year shall be granted to established Regional Gang Task Forces in regions experiencing a significant or increased presence of, or high levels of activity from, transnational organized crime groups posing threats to community safety in terms of violent crime, firearms offenses, human trafficking, drug trafficking, and other crimes.

(d) PRIORITY.—Amounts made available as grants under the Program shall be used to prioritize the investigation and prosecution of individuals who have an aggravating or leadership role in a criminal organization.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General to carry out the Program $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2021.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 2708. A bill to provide for the establishment of Medicare part E public health plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, the most important words of our Constitution are the first three words: ''We the people.'' That is the mission statement of our Constitution.

Our Founders did not seek to design a government that would enable the powerful and the privileged to make rules to benefit themselves. They didn't say: We want to have a Constitution that enables the wealthy and the well-connected to take away the riches of this country at the expense of the people. No, they laid out the vision ''We the people.'' They put that mission statement in supersized font, so even if you were reading the Constitution from across the room, you would understand its core mission—a core mission that unfortunately has been sabotaged in the Citizens United decision, which, instead of pursuing government of, by, and for the people, instead of providing what Jefferson called the equal voice, mother principle of America—that each citizen should have an equal voice—proceeds to give the powerful the reins of power through unlimited third-party campaign spending.

The corruption of our democracy is in full gear, and we see it through the bills that are coming to this floor—bills to wipe out healthcare for 22 to 30 million Americans, a bill that passed that borrows $1.5 trillion from our children and proceeds to give that money virtually entirely—more than 80 percent—to the very richest Americans. I encourage my colleagues to think about how we have a responsibility under our oath of office to fight for this vision of America, not a corrupted ''we the powerful'' vision of America.

As we address the issues that people care about at the kitchen table, it comes down to four basic things. It comes down to education, housing, living-wage jobs, and healthcare. Eisenhower said: ''Because the strength of our nation is in its people, their good health is a proper national concern.''

We have worked to design improved healthcare systems, lower costs, higher quality, and improved accessibility. We have come a long way through the ACA, the expansion of Medicaid, and the establishment of competitive marketplaces for insurance. Indeed, in Oregon, we reduced the uninsured rate from 15 percent to 5 percent. That is a huge stride forward. We increased our resources in our rural healthcare clinics, our rural hospitals, and our urban healthcare clinics and our urban hospitals. We strengthened the healthcare system, but it is not enough. We still have 41 million adults in this country who are underinsured. We have 30 million who remain completely uninsured.

That is why, today, I am delighted to join with my colleague Senator CHRIS MURPHY to introduce the Choose Medicare Act. Every American deserves the promise of access to a popular, affordable, high-quality healthcare option. Fortunately, we have such an option. It is called Medicare. It is time-tested. It is well-vetted. It is admired and desired by our seniors.

Today, CHRIS MURPHY and I are introducing the Choose Medicare Act, which creates a Medicare option for all, putting consumers and businesses in the driver's seat on the pathway to universal healthcare. With the Choose Medicare Act, we affirm that here in America, healthcare is not a privilege for the wealthy and well-connected. It is a right and a fundamental value to have healthcare for all.

I am pleased that we have been joined in introducing this today with nine of our colleagues as original cosponsors: Senator BALDWIN, Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator BOOKER, Senator HARRIS, Senator HEINRICH, Senator SHAHEEN, Senator SCHATZ, Senator GILLIBRAND, and Senator UDALL. Thank you to each and every one of these original cosponsors, who believe in the vision of improving our healthcare system.

We appreciate the groups that worked to help forge this vision to put meat on the bones of this idea: PCCC, which was involved from the very beginning with insights, CREDO, Daily Kos, Democracy for America, MoveOn, and Families USA. We appreciate their endorsement of this plan.

When we were talking about Medicare for All, many folks said: How do you create the transition? And back during the ACA discussions, we did debate reducing the age of Medicare to 55. We had 60 votes for it in a week but lost our 60th vote.

We wrestled with this vision. How do you create the transition? Well, folks come to my townhalls—and I hold a lot of them. I have held well over 300 during the 10 years I have been serving in the Senate. They come and say: We have this great healthcare plan, Medicare. Why can't we buy into it? Why not give us the advantage of its efficiency and cost control, its low-administrative costs and high-quality healthcare?

That is exactly what CHRIS MURPHY and I are putting forward along with our cosponsors—that vision of a Medicare option for all. That is a ''we the people'' bill. That is not a bill for the powerful and privileged. That is not government by the wealthy and well-connected. This is about the fundamental issue people wrestle with around the kitchen table—the complexity and the cost of our healthcare system. I am on Medicaid today, but I have earned a little too much, so am I off? How do I get on the exchange in the middle of the year? How do I sign up for those tax credits? What if I don't get that right? What if the correspondence gets lost in the mail or misfiled, which seems to happen? Why can't we have a simple, seamless system?

Well, we have one—Medicare. Folks say: Why can't we participate? You can, if we pass this bill. It makes sense to create this public option competitor. What we have seen for States that have a public option in their provision for workplace insurance is that the costs come down dramatically. That certainly happened in my home State of

Oregon. It happened on the other coast in Rhode Island. It has happened around this country.

Lyndon Johnson, when he signed the bill for Medicare, said:

It calls upon us never to be indifferent toward despair. It commands us never to turn away from helplessness. It directs us never to ignore or to spurn those who suffer untended in a land that is bursting with abundance.

Medicare is high-quality coverage for 58 million Americans. It has bargaining power, low administrative costs, and high respect by participants.

What does the Choose Medicare Act do? Well, it covers all that Medicare covers today, and then, because it would be open to people of all ages, it throws in pediatric and reproductive healthcare and builds those networks. It strengthens the exchanges by strengthening the tax credits so that the middle class is not stranded when it comes to the affordability of healthcare. It extends those tax credits from 400 percent of poverty to 600 percent of poverty, reaching further into the middle class to make that transition—to make healthcare affordable on the exchange. It strengthens, certainly, Medicare itself, by putting a cap on the out-of-pocket costs.

For all those who are in traditional Medicare, their Medicare improves as well. It provides the ability to drive down the cost of drugs by giving Medicare the ability to negotiate those prices. That is certainly a very important feature.

Here we have something that is very popular with the public. When the public is asked ''Would you like to see the opportunity for every single American to be able to buy into Medicare, have that as an option; it is a voluntary option, but an option,'' overwhelmingly, they say yes. Democrats say yes. Republicans say yes. Independents say yes. They would like to have that option. The more they learn about how a public option has driven down costs, the more they say that this is needed.

We not only make it possible to buy it on the exchange, we make it possible for self-insured companies to take advantage of Medicare. We make it possible for employers in regular companies, who are buying other healthcare plans for their employees, to consider buying a Medicare plan. So this reach is broad and deep.

That is the type of ''we the people'' legislation we should be considering on the floor of this Senate—not a healthcare bill designed to destroy healthcare for 22 to 30 million people, as we saw last year courtesy of our majority, not a plan to borrow $1.5 trillion from our children and to give it away to the very richest Americans, the biggest, boldest bank heist seen in American history—perhaps in world history. That is the type of bank heist you would expect out of corrupt, Third World governments, not here in the United States of America, which tells you just how corrupt our election process has become, with Citizens United allowing unlimited billionaire dollars into our campaign system.

We have to fight to take back the vision of our Nation, the ''we the people'' vision of our Nation. It has been stolen. It has been corrupted, and we have to take it back. When we take it back, we are going to put bills on the floor of this Senate that are about the fundamentals for families, living-wage jobs, public education and public college education, affordable quality classrooms, and the cost of housing, which is completely out of reach, and, certainly, profound substantial improvements to our healthcare system.

Again, I thank CHRIS MURPHY for partnering in this project. I supported BERNIE SANDERS' Medicare for All, and I love that vision. CHRIS MURPHY supported BRIAN SCHATZ's bill to be able to buy into Medicaid. We don't have an identical healthcare profile, but what we sought together is the option of buying into Medicare, which is a complete win for the American people and a complete win for our healthcare system.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 473—EXPRESSING NO CONFIDENCE IN THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. NELSON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COONS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WARNER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 473

Whereas the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in this preamble as the ''Administrator'') is a key position in the Executive Branch;

Whereas the mission of the Environmental Protection Agency (referred to in this preamble as the ''Agency'') is to protect human health and the environment;

Whereas the Agency is vested by law with the principal responsibility for controlling and abating pollution in the areas of air, water, land, hazardous waste, noise, radiation, and toxic substances;

Whereas Scott Pruitt, as Administrator, has misused taxpayer dollars by spending those taxpayer dollars on excessive personal conveniences and unnecessary office enhancements while dramatically cutting budgets and staff for critically important enforcement, research, and implementation activities;

Whereas, under Administrator Pruitt—

(1) the Agency is hemorrhaging staff and experts needed to protect the health, safety, and livelihood of millions of people of the United States, with more than 700 employees of the Agency having left or been forced out of the Agency during his tenure as Administrator;

(2) the Agency is seeking to shrink staff of the Agency by 3,200 employees (or roughly 20 percent of the workforce of the Agency of about 15,000), which would make it difficult to implement the mission of the Agency; and

(3) top officials of the Agency have been granted permission to also work for private companies while employed by the Agency, creating major conflicts of interest with their positions at the Agency;

Whereas, by delaying the effective date of regulations, easing enforcement of existing regulations, and delaying implementation of new regulations, Administrator Pruitt is helping polluters at the expense of the health, safety, and livelihood of millions of people of the United States;

Whereas Administrator Pruitt has failed to exercise the enforcement authorities of the Agency, which are necessary to the fulfillment of the mission of the Agency, and has hampered career officials and experts from efficiently doing their jobs without political interference by issuing a memorandum that required regional offices of the Agency to first seek permission from Agency headquarters before—

(1) investigating potential pollution violations;

(2) requesting information from potential violators; or

(3) requiring additional monitoring from companies suspected of violations;

Whereas Administrator Pruitt has continually overridden the recommendations of the scientists of the Agency in order to provide relief to industry, leaving in place the use of harmful chemicals, pesticides, and policies that are directly impacting the health and well-being of millions of people of the United States;

Whereas the Agency is expected to maintain and uphold unbiased scientific credibility, but Administrator Pruitt—

(1) has undertaken actions directly counter to the science-based mission of the Agency by working to undermine and censor science, scientists, and researchers;

(2) has skewed the membership of all advisory committees of the Agency by removing and barring highly qualified, independent scientists from those advisory committees if the scientist has received grants from the Agency, while allowing individuals who receive funding from industry to serve on those advisory committees; and

(3) is attempting to paralyze the ability of the Agency to set health-based pollution standards by restricting the use of scientific research by the Agency unless that research complies with criteria that are intentionally nearly impossible to meet;

Whereas Administrator Pruitt—

(1) has shielded his actions from the people of the United States, including by refusing to make his schedule public or provide justifications for his policy and rulemaking decisions, in a way not done by any previous Administrator; and

(2) has claimed unprecedented exemptions on the few requests under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Freedom of Information Act''), from outside groups that the Agency has responded to, masking all but the most basic information about meetings, travel, and spending of Administrator Pruitt from the public;

Whereas Administrator Pruitt has lost the faith of the public through his continued undermining of basic ethics, particularly the ethics of impartiality (such as by renting a below-market priced room in a condominium owned by an energy lobbyist with clients who had interests that are regulated by the Agency), and is tarnishing the reputation of serving in public office at the Agency; and

Whereas, for the reasons described in this preamble, Scott Pruitt, as Administrator, has failed to faithfully discharge the functions of that office: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) Scott Pruitt should resign immediately from his post as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(2) the President should appoint to the office of Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency an individual who will be committed to the fulfillment of the mission of the Environmental Protection Agency and who is able to fully and faithfully discharge the public duties entrusted to the office of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

SENATE RESOLUTION 474—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE JOHN MELCHER, SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 474

Whereas the Honorable John Melcher was first elected to Congress in 1969 and served in the House of Representatives for more than 7 years until 1977 and in the Senate for 12 years until 1989;

Whereas the Honorable John Melcher served in the United States Army during World War II and was part of the D-Day invasion of Normandy in June 1944;

Whereas the Honorable John Melcher received the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Bronze Star for his service;

Whereas the Honorable John Melcher graduated from veterinary school at Iowa State University in 1950, after which he moved with his family to Forsyth, Montana and established his own veterinary clinic;

Whereas the Honorable John Melcher served on the Forsyth city council starting in 1953 and served as mayor from 1955 to 1961 prior to serving as a State representative and State senator in Montana;

Whereas the Honorable John Melcher understood the value of public land and paved the way for future pieces of legislation to preserve the breathtaking landscapes of Montana;

Whereas the Honorable John Melcher passionately stood up for family farmers and ranchers in Montana and ensured his colleagues understood the importance of the agricultural sector; and

Whereas the Honorable John Melcher served with great humility, determination, integrity, and love of his family, the State of Montana, and the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable John Melcher, Senator from the State of Montana; and

(B) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the Honorable John Melcher; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns on the date of adoption of this resolution, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

SENATE RESOLUTION 475—COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND

Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 475

Whereas 2018 marks the 60th anniversary of the creation of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, commonly referred to as ''NORAD'';

Whereas the United States and Canada, bound together by history, values, economy, environment, and resolve to improve the lives people of both countries, have long enjoyed a close relationship that has allowed for continuous collaboration, building a prosperous future for the people of both countries;

Whereas the United States and Canada have stood shoulder to shoulder in defense of peace and security for more than 100 years, as partners and allies in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, throughout the Cold War, in Afghanistan, and as part of the global coalition against Daesh, working together to advance shared values of both countries;

Whereas, as indispensable allies in the defense of North America, on May 12, 1958, the United States and Canada signed an official agreement creating the binational North American Aerospace Defense Command and formally acknowledged the mutual commitment of both countries to defend their citizens from air domain attacks;

Whereas this cooperation is an important element of United States and Canadian contributions to the collective defense provided by the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

Whereas the North American Aerospace Defense Command enjoys a unique status as the only fully integrated binational military command;

Whereas the North American Aerospace Defense Command is headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado, with—

(1) 3 subordinate region headquarters located at—

(A) Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, for the Alaskan NORAD Region;

(B) Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, for the Continental NORAD Region; and

(C) Canadian Forces Base Winnipeg, Manitoba, for the Canadian NORAD Region; and

(2) 3 subordinate sector command centers at—

(A) Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, for the Western Air Defense Sector;

(B) Rome, New York, for the Eastern Air Defense Sector; and

(C) Canadian Forces Base North Bay, Ontario, for the Canadian Air Defense Sector;

Whereas the missions of the North American Aerospace Defense Command are to provide aerospace warning, aerospace control, and maritime warning to defend North America;

Whereas the North American Aerospace Defense Command and the current operations center of United States Northern Command are connected to a worldwide system of sensors that provides the Commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command with a common operating picture of aerospace and maritime threats;

Whereas the Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Colorado, hosts the Alternate Command Center for both the North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command;

Whereas the Commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command provides integrated tactical warning and attack assessments to the Government of the United States and the Government of Canada;

Whereas the North American Aerospace Defense Command detects, intercepts, and, if necessary, engages air domain threats to North America using—

(1) a network of space-based and ground-based sensors;

(2) airborne radars, fighters, and helicopters; and

(3) ground-based air defense systems;

Whereas the Agreement Between the Government of the United States and the Government of Canada on the North American Aerospace Defense Command, done at Ottawa April 28, 2006 (TIAS 06–512), added a maritime warning mission to the slate of responsibilities of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, which entails a shared awareness and understanding of the ongoing activities conducted in United States and Canadian maritime approaches, maritime areas, and inland waterways;

Whereas the North American Aerospace Defense Command provides continuous surveillance and defense of North American airspace from further airborne aggression or attack, as occurred on September 11, 2001, through the ongoing Operation Noble Eagle mission;

Whereas the North American Aerospace Defense Command will continue to evolve to address the ever-changing nature of the threats to North America and adapt to future shared security interests;

Whereas the outstanding service of United States and Canadian servicemembers from Active Duty and Reserve Component forces and civilians serving at North American Aerospace Defense Command is central to the ability of North America to confront and successfully defeat aerospace threats of the 21st century; and

Whereas the continuation of this successful relationship between the United States and Canada through the North American Aerospace Defense Command is paramount to the future security of the people of the United States and Canada: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the contributions made by the North American Aerospace Defense Command to the security of North America;

(2) commemorates 60 years of excellence and distinctive service by the men and women of the North American Aerospace Defense Command;

(3) reaffirms the critical missions of the North American Aerospace Defense Command headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado; and

(4) supports the role of the North American Aerospace Defense Command in providing binational defense of the United States and Canada in the 21st century.

SENATE RESOLUTION 476—DESIGNATING APRIL 2018 AS ''NATIONAL 9–1–1 EDUCATION MONTH''

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 476

Whereas 9–1–1 is recognized throughout the United States as the number to call in an emergency to receive immediate help from law enforcement agencies, fire services, emergency medical services, and other appropriate emergency response entities;

Whereas, in 1967, the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice recommended that a ''single number should be established'' nationwide for reporting emergency situations, and various Federal Government agencies and governmental officials supported and encouraged the recommendation;

Whereas, in 1968, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (commonly known as ''AT&T'') announced that it would establish the digits 9–1–1 as the emergency code throughout the United States;

Whereas Congress designated 9–1–1 as the national emergency call number in the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 (Public Law 106–81; 113 Stat. 1286);

Whereas section 102 of the ENHANCE 911 Act of 2004 (47 U.S.C. 942 note) declared an enhanced 9–1–1 system to be ''a high national priority'' and part of ''our Nation's homeland security and public safety'';

Whereas it is important that policymakers at all levels of government understand the importance of 9–1–1, how the 9–1–1 system works, and the steps that are needed to modernize the 9–1–1 system;

Whereas the 9–1–1 system is the connection between the eyes and ears of the public and the emergency response system in the United States and is often the first place emergencies of all magnitudes are reported, making 9–1–1 a significant homeland security asset;

Whereas nearly 6,000 9–1–1 public safety answering points serve more than 3,000 counties and parishes throughout the United States;

Whereas telecommunicators at public safety answering points answer more than 200,000,000 9–1–1 calls each year in the United States;

Whereas a growing number of 9–1–1 calls are made using wireless and Internet Protocol-based communications services;

Whereas a growing segment of the population of the United States, including individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or who suffer from speech or language disorders, autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy, or anxiety, is increasingly communicating with nontraditional text, video, and instant messaging communications services and expects those services to be able to connect directly to 9–1–1;

Whereas Next Generation 9-1-1 promises enhanced accessibility, interoperability, flexibility, and features, as well as network resiliency and reliability;

Whereas the growth in usage and diversification of means of communication to 9–1–1 services, including mobile and Internet Protocol-based systems, impose unique challenges for accessing 9–1–1 and, thus, require increased education and awareness about the emergency communications capabilities of these different methods of communication;

Whereas numerous other ''N–1–1'' and 800 number services exist for nonemergency situations, including 2–1–1, 3–1–1, 5–1–1, 7–1–1, 8–1–1, poison control centers, and mental health hotlines, and the public needs to be educated on when to use those services in addition to or instead of 9–1–1;

Whereas international visitors and immigrants make up an increasing percentage of the population of the United States each year, and visitors and immigrants may have limited knowledge of the emergency calling system in the United States;

Whereas people of all ages use 9–1–1, and it is critical to educate people on the proper use of 9–1–1;

Whereas senior citizens are highly likely to need to access 9–1–1 and many senior citizens are learning to use new technology;

Whereas thousands of 9–1–1 calls are made every year by children properly trained in the use of 9–1–1, which saves lives and underscores the critical importance of training children early in life about 9–1–1;

Whereas the 9–1–1 system is often misused, including by the placement of prank and nonemergency calls;

Whereas misuse of the 9–1–1 system results in costly and inefficient use of 9–1–1 and emergency response resources and needs to be reduced;

Whereas parents, teachers, and all other caregivers need to play an active role in 9–1–1 education for children, but can do so only after first being educated themselves;

Whereas there are many avenues for 9–1–1 public education, including safety fairs, school presentations, libraries, churches, businesses, public safety answering point tours or open houses, civic organizations, and senior citizen centers;

Whereas children, parents, teachers, and the National Parent Teacher Association make vital contributions to the education of children about the importance of 9–1–1 through targeted outreach efforts to public and private school systems;

Whereas the United States should strive to host at least 1 educational event regarding the proper use of 9–1–1 in every school in the country each year;

Whereas programs to promote proper use of 9–1–1 during National 9–1–1 Education Month could include—

(1) public awareness events, including conferences, media outreach, and training activities for parents, teachers, school administrators, other caregivers, and businesses;

(2) educational events in schools and other appropriate venues; and

(3) production and distribution of information about the 9–1–1 system designed to educate people of all ages on the importance and proper use of 9–1–1; and

Whereas the people of the United States deserve the best education regarding the use of 9–1–1: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2018 as ''National 9–1–1 Education Month''; and

(2) urges governmental officials, parents, teachers, school administrators, caregivers, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies, training events, and activities.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 36—SETTING FORTH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019 AND SETTING FORTH THE APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020 THROUGH 2028

Mr. PAUL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was placed on the calendar:

S. CON. RES. 36

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.

(a) DECLARATION.—Congress declares that this resolution is the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2019 and that this resolution sets forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2020 through 2028.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this concurrent resolution is as follows:

Sec. 1. Concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2019.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

Subtitle A—Budgetary Levels in Both Houses

Sec. 1101. Recommended levels and amounts.
Sec. 1102. Major functional categories.

Subtitle B—Levels and Amounts in the Senate

Sec. 1201. Social Security in the Senate.
Sec. 1202. Postal Service discretionary administrative expenses in the Senate.

TITLE II—RECONCILIATION

Sec. 2001. Reconciliation in the Senate.

TITLE III—RESERVE FUNDS

Sec. 3001. Deficit reduction fund for efficiencies, consolidations, and other savings.
Sec. 3002. Reserve fund relating to health savings accounts.

TITLE IV—BUDGET PROCESS

Sec. 4001. Voting threshold for points of order.
Sec. 4002. Emergency legislation.
Sec. 4003. Enforcement of allocations, aggregates, and other levels.
Sec. 4004. Point of order against legislation providing funding within more than 3 suballocations under section 302(b).
Sec. 4005. Duplication determinations by the Congressional Budget Office.
Sec. 4006. Breakdown of cost estimates by budget function.

Sec. 4007. Sense of the Senate on treatment of reduction of appropriations levels to achieve savings.
Sec. 4008. Prohibition on preemptive waivers.
Sec. 4009. Adjustments for legislation reducing appropriations.
Sec. 4010. Authority.
Sec. 4011. Exercise of rulemaking powers.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

Subtitle A—Budgetary Levels in Both Houses

SEC. 1101. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2028:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2019: $2,590,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $2,736,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $2,845,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $2,990,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $3,164,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $3,338,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: $3,513,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026: $3,807,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $4,058,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $4,230,000,000,000.

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2019: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: −$1,800,000,000.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2019: $3,474,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,233,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $3,070,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $3,086,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $3,049,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $3,018,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: $3,068,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026: $3,097,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $3,127,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $3,159,000,000,000.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2019: $3,151,170,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,119,660,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $3,088,460,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $3,057,580,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $3,027,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $2,996,730,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: $3,026,700,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026: $3,056,970,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $3,087,540,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $3,118,410,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the amounts of the deficits are as follows:

Fiscal year 2019: −$708,170,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: −$550,660,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: −$435,460,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: −$290,580,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: −$118,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $49,270,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: $156,300,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026: $379,030,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $555,460,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $649,590,000,000.

(5) PUBLIC DEBT.—Pursuant to section 301(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632(a)(5)), the appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 2019: $16,559,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $17,483,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $18,473,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $19,554,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $20,729,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $21,979,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: $23,369,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026: $24,943,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $26,454,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $27,929,000,000,000.

(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:

Fiscal year 2019: $22,278,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $23,223,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $24,196,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $25,199,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $26,320,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $27,544,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: $28,854,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026: $30,435,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $31,792,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $32,985,000,000,000.

SEC. 1102. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2019 through 2028 for each major functional category are:

(1) National Defense (050):

Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $728,697,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $678,276,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $660,632,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $660,658,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $676,312,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $664,529,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $692,752,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $681,476,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $709,588,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $689,183,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $726,971,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $698,885,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $744,692,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $720,771,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $762,838,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $738,346,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $781,485,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $756,358,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $801,504,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $780,743,000,000.

(2) International Affairs (150):

Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $64,431,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $48,945,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $65,994,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $53,737,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $66,600,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $57,679,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $65,230,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $60,253,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $66,750,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $62,465,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $68,424,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $64,300,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $69,986,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $65,812,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $71,603,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $67,379,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $73,243,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $68,920,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $74,887,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $70,533,000,000.

(3) General Science, Space, and Technology (250):

Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $32,740,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $32,054,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $33,488,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $32,708,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $34,287,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $33,452,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $35,089,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,251,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $35,897,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $35,052,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $36,762,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $35,901,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $37,602,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $36,729,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $38,445,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $37,562,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $39,321,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $38,406,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $40,209,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,279,000,000.

(4) Energy (270):

Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $4,528,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,318,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $5,096,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,104,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $4,910,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,340,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $3,601,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,100,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $3,325,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,491,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $3,385,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,504,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $3,415,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,542,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $3,226,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,358,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $3,263,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,599,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $5,965,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,306,000,000.

(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):

Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $61,470,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,549,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $63,358,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $45,737,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $64,559,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $48,031,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $65,036,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $48,715,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $68,045,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $51,876,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $69,679,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $53,770,000,000.

Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $70,871,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $55,537,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $73,144,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $58,364,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $75,001,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $60,815,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $76,866,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $63,282,000,000.
(6) Agriculture (350):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $23,298,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,428,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $22,766,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,978,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $24,355,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $23,651,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $25,015,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $24,348,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $24,957,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,269,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $25,309,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,613,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $25,663,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,919,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $26,210,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,483,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $26,289,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,556,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $26,658,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,906,000,000.
(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $14,872,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,858,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $15,418,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,225,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $16,254,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,329,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $17,211,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,115,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $15,639,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,298,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $16,139,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,485,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $16,941,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,303,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $16,387,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,988,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $16,874,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,580,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $17,230,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,481,000,000.
(8) Transportation (400):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $97,591,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $95,044,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $92,360,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $97,971,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $93,359,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $100,252,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $94,376,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $102,552,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $95,381,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $104,527,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $96,430,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $106,561,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $97,474,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $108,958,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $98,513,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $111,165,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $99,592,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $113,347,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $100,694,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $115,454,000,000.
(9) Community and Regional Development (450):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $94,402,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $45,448,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $96,527,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $52,317,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $98,551,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $58,177,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $100,369,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $65,792,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $102,536,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $71,632,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $104,881,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $77,874,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $107,129,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $83,994,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $109,391,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $89,580,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $111,747,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $94,133,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $114,100,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $98,552,000,000.
(10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $113,915,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $112,015,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $119,502,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $122,505,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $123,046,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $120,471,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $124,528,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $122,610,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $124,302,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $123,832,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $126,992,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $125,189,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $129,884,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $127,700,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $132,659,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $130,520,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $135,302,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $133,099,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $138,309,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $136,024,000,000.
(11) Health (550):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $591,976,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $577,105,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $615,248,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $593,448,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $635,103,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $618,465,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $675,763,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $655,391,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $708,406,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $689,210,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $732,919,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $725,742,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $770,809,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $763,995,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $811,032,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $803,094,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $852,990,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $845,612,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $892,330,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $888,883,000,000.
(12) Medicare (570):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $648,565,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $648,231,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $693,013,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $692,686,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $646,698,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $746,329,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $837,357,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $836,993,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $861,007,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $860,646,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $878,101,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $877,735,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $983,143,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $982,771,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $1,052,579,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,025,196,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $1,127,150,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,126,771,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $1,271,586,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,271,204,000,000.
(13) Income Security (600):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $527,870,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $519,077,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $539,364,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $529,959,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $55,766,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $546,954,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $578,382,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $575,912,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $588,808,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $581,459,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $598,211,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $585,933,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $618,261,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $606,904,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $633,569,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $628,222,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $634,354,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $625,722,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $655,156,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $652,253,000,000.
(14) Social Security (650):
Fiscal year 2019:

(A) New budget authority, $35,977,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $35,977,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $39,035,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,035,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $42,028,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $42,028,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $45,053,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $45,053,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $48,312,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $48,312,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $51,893,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $51,893,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $55,894,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $55,894,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $66,328,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $66,328,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $72,886,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $72,886,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $78,066,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $78,066,000,000.
(15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $192,838,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $192,108,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $200,133,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $198,629,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $207,549,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $205,736,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $215,660,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $222,648,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $222,313,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $220,784,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $229,290,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $218,166,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $237,747,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $235,727,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $245,652,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $243,565,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $235,852,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $251,684,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $264,156,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $272,947,000,000.
(16) Administration of Justice (750):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $71,727,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $63,352,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $64,842,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $66,645,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $65,374,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $70,625,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $67,015,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $71,369,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $69,001,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $71,319,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $70,862,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $71,297,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $72,676,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $72,145,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $74,281,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $73,728,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $77,691,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $77,057,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $84,842,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $84,118,000,000.
(17) General Government (800):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $27,557,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $24,853,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $28,083,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,586,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $28,734,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,853,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $30,232,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $27,174,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $30,271,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $27,233,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $30,837,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $27,755,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $32,075,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $28,735,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $32,619,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,193,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $33,435,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,931,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $34,348,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $30,694,000,000.
(18) Net Interest (900):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $470,776,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $470,776,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $564,099,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $564,099,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $648,352,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $648,352,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $719,672,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $719,672,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $764,950,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $764,950,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $799,781,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $799,781,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $831,612,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $831,612,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $907,391,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $907,391,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $789,792,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $789,792,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $834,173,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $834,173,000,000.
(19) Allowances (920):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $27,679,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $18,575,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, −$48,134,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$19,403,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, −$50,972,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$35,311,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, −$54,331,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$47,988,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, −$56,504,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$53,490,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, −$59,623,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$58,510,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, −$61,801,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$61,123,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, −$63,711,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$63,348,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, −$66,015,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$65,559,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, −$62,662,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$65,293,000,000.
(20) New Efficiencies, Consolidations, and Other Savings (930):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, −$426,137,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$308,812,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, −$668,153,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$468,659,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, −$882,483,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$647,654,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, −$1,209,600,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$905,483,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, −$1,331,706,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$1,069,229,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, −$1,470,058,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$1,235,992,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, −$1,712,029,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$1,443,138,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, −$1,899,768,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$1,660,922,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, −$2,064,040,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$1,840,142,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, −$2,411,721,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$2,169,051,000,000.
(21) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, −$81,989,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$81,989,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, −$83,624,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$83,624,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, −$85,942,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$85,942,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, −$88,436,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$88,436,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, −$88,048,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$88,048,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, −$90,874,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$90,874,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, −$100,925,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$100,925,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, −$96,114,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$96,114,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, −$98,827,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$98,827,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, −$102,191,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$102,191,000,000.

Subtitle B—Levels and Amounts in the Senate

SEC. 1201. SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE SENATE.

(a) SOCIAL SECURITY REVENUES.—For purposes of Senate enforcement under sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633 and 642), the amounts of revenues of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are as follows:

Fiscal year 2019: $905,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $941,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $995,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $1,049,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $1,103,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $1,164,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: $1,226,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026: $1,296,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $1,361,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $1,442,000,000,000.

(b) SOCIAL SECURITY OUTLAYS.—For purposes of Senate enforcement under sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633 and 642), the amounts of outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are as follows:

Fiscal year 2019: $897,332,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $955,095,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $1,015,309,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $1,079,773,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $1,147,889,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $1,219,609,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: $1,293,326,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026: $1,370,789,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $1,451,789,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $1,539,941,000,000.

(c) SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—In the Senate, the amounts of new budget authority and budget outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for administrative expenses are as follows:

Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $5,627,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,831,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $5,759,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,685,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $5,906,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,837,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $6,057,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,975,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $6,236,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,142,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $6,424,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,331,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $6,616,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,522,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $6,816,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,718,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $7,023,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,922,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $7,246,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,186,000,000.

SEC. 1202. POSTAL SERVICE DISCRETIONARY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES IN THE SENATE.

In the Senate, the amounts of new budget authority and budget outlays of the Postal Service for discretionary administrative expenses are as follows:

Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $285,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $285,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $284,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $284,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $285,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $285,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $286,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $286,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $286,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $286,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $287,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $287,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $288,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $288,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $289,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $289,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $289,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $289,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $290,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $290,000,000.

TITLE II—RECONCILIATION

SEC. 2001. RECONCILIATION IN THE SENATE.

(a) AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY.—The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(b) ARMED SERVICES.—The Committee on Armed Services of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(c) BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS.—The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(d) COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION.—The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(e) ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.—The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(f) ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS.—The Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(g) FINANCE.—

(1) DEFICIT.—The Committee on Finance of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(2) REVENUE.—The Committee on Finance of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce revenues by not less than $18,600,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(h) FOREIGN RELATIONS.—The Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(i) HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS.—The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(j) HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS.—The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(k) INDIAN AFFAIRS.—The Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(l) INTELLIGENCE.—The Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(m) JUDICIARY.—The Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(n) RULES AND ADMINISTRATION.—The Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(o) VETERANS AFFAIRS.—The Committee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(p) SUBMISSIONS.—In the Senate, not later than June 20, 2018, the committees named in subsections (a) through (o) shall submit their recommendations to the Committee on the Budget of the Senate. Upon receiving such recommendations, the Committee on the Budget of the Senate shall report to the Senate a reconciliation bill carrying out all such recommendations without any substantive revision.

TITLE III—RESERVE FUNDS

SEC. 3001. DEFICIT REDUCTION FUND FOR EFFICIENCIES, CONSOLIDATIONS, AND OTHER SAVINGS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution, and make adjustments to the pay-as-you-go ledger, for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to efficiencies, consolidations, and other savings by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would reduce the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2019 through 2023 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

SEC. 3002. RESERVE FUND RELATING TO HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution, and make adjustments to the pay-as-you-go ledger, for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to health savings accounts by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes.

TITLE IV—BUDGET PROCESS

SEC. 4001. VOTING THRESHOLD FOR POINTS OF ORDER.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''covered point of order'' means a point of order—

(1) under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.), the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.), or a concurrent resolution on the budget; and

(2) which, but for subsection (b), may be waived only by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn.

(b) VOTING THRESHOLD.—In the Senate—

(1) a covered point of order may be waived only by the affirmative vote of five-eighths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn; and

(2) an affirmative vote of five-eighths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a covered point of order.

SEC. 4002. EMERGENCY LEGISLATION.

(a) AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE.—In the Senate, with respect to a provision of direct spending or receipts legislation or appropriations for discretionary accounts that Congress designates as an emergency requirement, by an affirmative vote of five-eighths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn, in such measure, the amounts of new budget authority, outlays, and receipts in all fiscal years resulting from that provision shall be treated as an emergency requirement for the purpose of this section.

(b) EXEMPTION OF EMERGENCY PROVISIONS.—Any new budget authority, outlays, and receipts resulting from any provision designated as an emergency requirement, pursuant to this section, in any bill, joint resolution, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report shall not count for purposes of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633 and 642), section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, section 3101 of S. Con. Res. 11 (114th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016, and sections 401 and 404 of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010. Designated emergency provisions shall not count for the purpose of revising allocations, aggregates, or other levels pursuant to procedures established under section 301(b)(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632(b)(7)) for deficit-neutral reserve funds and revising discretionary spending limits set pursuant to section 301 of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

(c) DESIGNATIONS.—If a provision of legislation is designated as an emergency requirement under this section, the committee report and any statement of managers accompanying that legislation shall include an explanation of the manner in which the provision meets the criteria in subsection (f).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''direct spending'', ''receipts'', and ''appropriations for discretionary accounts'' mean any provision of a bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that affects direct spending, receipts, or appropriations as those terms have been defined and interpreted for purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.).

(e) POINT OF ORDER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—When the Senate is considering a bill, resolution, amendment, motion, amendment between the Houses, or conference report, if a point of order is made by a Senator against an emergency designation in that measure, that provision making such a designation shall be stricken from the measure and may not be offered as an amendment from the floor.

(2) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEALS.—

(A) WAIVER.—Paragraph (1) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of five-eighths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(B) APPEALS.—Appeals in the Senate from the decisions of the Chair relating to any provision of this subsection shall be limited to 1 hour, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the appellant and the manager of the bill or joint resolution, as the case may be. An affirmative vote of five-eighths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this subsection.

(3) DEFINITION OF AN EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a provision shall be considered an emergency designation if it designates any item as an emergency requirement pursuant to this subsection.

(4) FORM OF THE POINT OF ORDER.—A point of order under paragraph (1) may be raised by a Senator as provided in section 313(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 644(e)).

(5) CONFERENCE REPORTS.—When the Senate is considering a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to, a bill, upon a point of order being made by any Senator pursuant to this section, and such point of order being sustained, such material contained in such conference report shall be stricken, and the Senate shall proceed to consider the question of whether the Senate shall recede from its amendment and concur with a further amendment, or concur in the House amendment with a further amendment, as the case may be, which further amendment shall consist of only that portion of the conference report or House amendment, as the case may be, not so stricken. Any such motion in the Senate shall be debatable. In any case in which such point of order is sustained against a conference report (or Senate amendment derived from such conference report by operation of this subsection), no further amendment shall be in order.

(f) CRITERIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, any provision is an emergency requirement if the situation addressed by such provision is—

(A) necessary, essential, or vital (not merely useful or beneficial);

(B) sudden, quickly coming into being, and not building up over time;

(C) an urgent, pressing, and compelling need requiring immediate action;

(D) subject to paragraph (2), unforeseen, unpredictable, and unanticipated; and

(E) not permanent, temporary in nature.

(2) UNFORESEEN.—An emergency that is part of an aggregate level of anticipated emergencies, particularly when normally estimated in advance, is not unforeseen.

(g) INAPPLICABILITY.—In the Senate, section 4112 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, shall no longer apply.

SEC. 4003. ENFORCEMENT OF ALLOCATIONS, AGGREGATES, AND OTHER LEVELS.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—During each of fiscal years 2019 through 2028, it shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would cause the amount of new budget authority, outlays, or deficits to be more than, or would cause the amount of revenues to be less than, the amount set forth under any allocation, aggregate, or other level established under this resolution.

(b) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of five-eighths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of five-eighths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

SEC. 4004. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST LEGISLATION PROVIDING FUNDING WITHIN MORE THAN 3 SUBALLOCATIONS UNDER SECTION 302(b).

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that appropriates amounts that are within more than 3 of the suballocations under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(b)).

(b) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of five-eighths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of five-eighths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

SEC. 4005. DUPLICATION DETERMINATIONS BY THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''covered legislation'' means a bill or resolution of a public character reported by any committee of the Senate.

(b) DUPLICATION DETERMINATIONS BY THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE.—Any estimate provided by the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 653) for covered legislation shall include an analysis that includes—

(1) a determination of whether the covered legislation creates any new Federal program, office, or initiative that would duplicate or overlap with any existing Federal entity with similar mission, purpose, goals, or activities; and

(2) a listing of all such instances of duplication or overlapping created by the covered legislation.

SEC. 4006. BREAKDOWN OF COST ESTIMATES BY BUDGET FUNCTION.

Any cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office shall specify the percentage of the estimated cost that is within each budget function.

SEC. 4007. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON TREATMENT OF REDUCTION OF APPROPRIATIONS LEVELS TO ACHIEVE SAVINGS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) H. Con. Res. 448 (96th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1981, gave authorizing committees reconciliation instructions which amounted to approximately two-thirds of the savings required under reconciliation.

(2) The language in H. Con. Res. 448 resulted in a debate about how reconciling discretionary spending programs could be in

order given that authorizations of appropriations for programs did not actually change spending and the programs authorized would be funded through later annual appropriation. The staff of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the counsel to the Majority Leader advised that upon consultation with the Parliamentarian, the original instructions on discretionary spending would be out of order because of the phrase, ''to modify programs''. This was seen as too broad and programs could be modified without resulting in changes to their future appropriations.

(3) To rectify this violation, the Committee on the Budget of the Senate reported S. Con. Res. 9 (97th Congress), revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1981, 1982, and 1983, to include reconciliation, which revised the language in the reconciliation instructions to change entitlement law and ''to report changes in laws within the jurisdiction of that committee sufficient to reduce appropriations levels so as to achieve savings''.

(4) This was understood to mean changes in authorization language of discretionary programs would be permissible under reconciliation procedures provided such changes in law would have the result in affecting a change in later outlays derived from future appropriations. Further it was understood that a change in authorization language that caused a change in later outlays was considered to be a change in outlays for the purpose of reconciliation.

(5) On April 2, 1981, the Senate voted 88 to 10 to approve S. Con. Res. 9 with the modified reconciliation language.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that committees reporting changes in laws within the jurisdiction of that committee sufficient to reduce appropriations levels so as to achieve savings shall be considered to be changes in outlays for the purpose of enforcing the prohibition on extraneous matters in reconciliation bills.

SEC. 4008. PROHIBITION ON PREEMPTIVE WAIVERS.

In the Senate, it shall not be in order to move to waive or suspend a point of order under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) or any concurrent resolution on the budget with respect to a bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report unless the point of order has been specifically raised by a Senator.

SEC. 4009. ADJUSTMENTS FOR LEGISLATION REDUCING APPROPRIATIONS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations in effect under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) and the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill or joint resolution considered pursuant to section 2001 containing the recommendations of one or more committees, or for one or more amendments to, a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to such a bill or joint resolution, by the amounts necessary to accommodate the reduction in the amount of discretionary appropriations for a fiscal year caused by the measure.

SEC. 4010. AUTHORITY.

Congress adopts this title under the authority under section 301(b)(4) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632(b)(4)).

SEC. 4011. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.

Congress adopts the provisions of this title—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate, and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of the Senate and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such other rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of the Senate to change those rules at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as is the case of any other rule of the Senate.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 37—SETTING FORTH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019 AND SETTING FORTH THE APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020 THROUGH 2028

Mr. PAUL submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was placed on the calendar:

S. CON. RES. 37

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019.

(a) DECLARATION.—Congress declares that this resolution is the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2019 and that this resolution sets forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2020 through 2028.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this concurrent resolution is as follows:

Sec. 1. Concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2019.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

Subtitle A—Budgetary Levels in Both Houses

Sec. 1101. Recommended levels and amounts.
Sec. 1102. Major functional categories.

Subtitle B—Levels and Amounts in the Senate

Sec. 1201. Social Security in the Senate.
Sec. 1202. Postal Service discretionary administrative expenses in the Senate.

TITLE II—RECONCILIATION

Sec. 2001. Reconciliation in the Senate.

TITLE III—RESERVE FUNDS

Sec. 3001. Deficit reduction fund for efficiencies, consolidations, and other savings.
Sec. 3002. Reserve fund relating to health savings accounts.

TITLE IV—BUDGET PROCESS

Sec. 4001. Voting threshold for points of order.
Sec. 4002. Emergency legislation.
Sec. 4003. Enforcement of allocations, aggregates, and other levels.
Sec. 4004. Duplication determinations by the Congressional Budget Office.
Sec. 4005. Breakdown of cost estimates by budget function.
Sec. 4006. Sense of the Senate on treatment of reduction of appropriations levels to achieve savings.
Sec. 4007. Prohibition on preemptive waivers.
Sec. 4008. Adjustments for legislation reducing appropriations.
Sec. 4009. Authority.
Sec. 4010. Exercise of rulemaking powers.

TITLE I—RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS

Subtitle A—Budgetary Levels in Both Houses

SEC. 1101. RECOMMENDED LEVELS AND AMOUNTS.

The following budgetary levels are appropriate for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2028:

(1) FEDERAL REVENUES.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution:

(A) The recommended levels of Federal revenues are as follows:

Fiscal year 2019: $2,590,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $2,736,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $2,845,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $2,990,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $3,164,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $3,338,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: $3,513,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026: $3,807,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $4,058,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $4,230,000,000,000.

(B) The amounts by which the aggregate levels of Federal revenues should be changed are as follows:

Fiscal year 2019: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: −$1,800,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: −$1,800,000,000.

(2) NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total new budget authority are as follows:

Fiscal year 2019: $3,474,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,233,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $3,070,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $3,086,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $3,049,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $3,018,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: $3,068,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026: $3,097,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $3,127,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $3,159,000,000,000.

(3) BUDGET OUTLAYS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the appropriate levels of total budget outlays are as follows:

Fiscal year 2019: $3,151,170,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $3,119,660,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $3,088,460,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $3,057,580,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $3,027,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $2,996,730,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: $3,026,700,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026: $3,056,970,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $3,087,540,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $3,118,410,000,000.

(4) DEFICITS.—For purposes of the enforcement of this resolution, the amounts of the deficits are as follows:

Fiscal year 2019: −$708,170,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: −$550,660,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: −$435,460,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: −$290,580,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: −$118,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $49,270,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: $156,300,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026: $379,030,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $555,460,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $649,590,000,000.

(5) PUBLIC DEBT.—Pursuant to section 301(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632(a)(5)), the appropriate levels of the public debt are as follows:

Fiscal year 2019: $16,559,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $17,483,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $18,473,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $19,554,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $20,729,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $21,979,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: $23,369,000,000,000.

Fiscal year 2026: $24,943,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $26,454,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $27,929,000,000,000.
(6) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—The appropriate levels of debt held by the public are as follows:
Fiscal year 2019: $22,278,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $23,223,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $24,196,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $25,199,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $26,320,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $27,544,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: $28,854,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026: $30,435,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $31,792,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $32,985,000,000,000.

SEC. 1102. MAJOR FUNCTIONAL CATEGORIES.

Congress determines and declares that the appropriate levels of new budget authority and outlays for fiscal years 2019 through 2028 for each major functional category are:
(1) National Defense (050):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $728,697,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $678,276,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $660,632,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $660,658,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $676,312,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $664,529,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $692,752,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $681,476,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $709,588,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $689,183,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $726,971,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $698,885,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $744,692,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $720,771,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $762,838,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $738,346,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $781,485,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $756,358,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $801,504,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $780,743,000,000.
(2) International Affairs (150):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $64,431,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $48,945,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $65,994,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $53,737,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $66,600,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $57,679,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $65,230,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $60,253,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $66,750,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $62,465,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $68,424,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $64,300,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $69,986,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $65,812,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $71,603,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $67,379,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $73,243,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $68,920,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $74,887,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $70,533,000,000.
(3) General Science, Space, and Technology (250):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $32,740,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $32,054,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $33,488,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $32,708,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $34,287,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $33,452,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $35,089,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,251,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $35,897,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $35,052,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $36,762,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $35,901,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $37,602,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $36,729,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $38,445,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $37,562,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $39,321,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $38,406,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $40,209,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,279,000,000.
(4) Energy (270):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $4,528,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,318,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $5,096,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,104,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $4,910,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,340,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $3,601,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $3,100,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $3,325,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,491,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $3,385,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,504,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $3,415,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,542,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $3,226,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,358,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $3,263,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $2,599,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $5,965,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,306,000,000.
(5) Natural Resources and Environment (300):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $61,470,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $43,549,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $63,358,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $45,737,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $64,559,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $48,031,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $65,036,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $48,715,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $68,045,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $51,876,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $69,679,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $53,770,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $70,871,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $55,537,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $73,144,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $58,364,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $75,001,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $60,815,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $76,866,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $63,282,000,000.
(6) Agriculture (350):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $23,298,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $22,428,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $22,766,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $21,978,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $24,355,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $23,651,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $25,015,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $24,348,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $24,957,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,269,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $25,309,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,613,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $25,663,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $34,919,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $26,210,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,483,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $26,289,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,556,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $26,658,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,906,000,000.
(7) Commerce and Housing Credit (370):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $14,872,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,858,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $15,418,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,225,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $16,254,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,329,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $17,211,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,115,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $15,639,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,298,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $16,139,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,485,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $16,941,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,303,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $16,387,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,988,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $16,874,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $4,580,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $17,230,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,481,000,000.
(8) Transportation (400):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $97,591,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $95,044,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $92,360,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $97,971,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $93,359,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $100,252,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $94,376,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $102,552,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $95,381,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $104,527,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $96,430,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $106,561,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $97,474,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $108,958,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:

(A) New budget authority, $98,513,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $111,165,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $99,592,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $113,347,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $100,694,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $115,454,000,000.
(9) Community and Regional Development (450):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $94,402,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $45,448,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $96,527,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $52,317,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $98,551,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $58,177,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $100,369,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $65,792,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $102,536,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $71,632,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $104,881,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $77,874,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $107,129,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $83,994,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $109,391,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $89,580,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $111,747,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $94,133,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $114,100,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $98,552,000,000.
(10) Education, Training, Employment, and Social Services (500):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $113,915,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $112,015,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $119,502,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $122,505,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $123,046,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $120,471,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $124,528,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $122,610,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $124,302,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $123,832,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $126,992,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $125,189,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $129,884,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $127,700,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $132,659,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $130,520,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $135,302,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $133,099,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $138,309,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $136,024,000,000.
(11) Health (550):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $591,976,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $577,105,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $615,248,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $593,448,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $635,103,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $618,465,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $675,763,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $655,391,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $708,406,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $689,210,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $732,919,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $725,742,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $770,809,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $763,995,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $811,032,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $803,094,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $852,990,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $845,612,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $892,330,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $888,883,000,000.
(12) Medicare (570):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $648,565,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $648,231,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $693,013,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $692,686,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $646,698,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $746,329,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $837,357,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $836,993,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $861,007,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $860,646,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $878,101,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $877,735,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $983,143,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $982,771,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $1,052,579,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,025,196,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $1,127,150,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,126,771,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $1,271,586,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $1,271,204,000,000.
(13) Income Security (600):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $527,870,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $519,077,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $539,364,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $529,959,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $55,766,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $546,954,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $578,382,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $575,912,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $588,808,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $581,459,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $598,211,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $585,933,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $618,261,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $606,904,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $633,569,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $628,222,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $634,354,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $625,722,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $655,156,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $652,253,000,000.
(14) Social Security (650):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $35,977,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $35,977,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $39,035,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $39,035,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $42,028,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $42,028,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $45,053,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $45,053,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $48,312,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $48,312,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $51,893,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $51,893,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $55,894,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $55,894,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $66,328,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $66,328,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $72,886,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $72,886,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $78,066,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $78,066,000,000.
(15) Veterans Benefits and Services (700):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $192,838,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $192,108,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $200,133,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $198,629,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $207,549,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $205,736,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $215,660,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $222,648,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $222,313,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $220,784,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $229,290,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $218,166,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $237,747,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $235,727,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $245,652,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $243,565,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $235,852,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $251,684,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $264,156,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $272,947,000,000.
(16) Administration of Justice (750):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $71,727,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $63,352,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $64,842,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $66,645,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $65,374,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $70,625,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $67,015,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $71,369,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $69,001,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $71,319,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $70,862,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $71,297,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $72,676,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $72,145,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $74,281,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $73,728,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $77,691,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $77,057,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $84,842,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $84,118,000,000.
(17) General Government (800):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $27,557,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $24,853,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $28,083,000,000.

(B) Outlays, $25,586,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $28,734,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $25,853,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $30,232,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $27,174,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $30,271,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $27,233,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $30,837,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $27,755,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $32,075,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $28,735,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $32,619,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,193,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $33,435,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $29,931,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $34,348,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $30,694,000,000.
(18) Net Interest (900):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $470,776,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $470,776,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $564,099,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $564,099,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $648,352,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $648,352,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $719,672,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $719,672,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $764,950,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $764,950,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $799,781,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $799,781,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $831,612,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $831,612,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $907,391,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $907,391,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $789,792,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $789,792,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $834,173,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $834,173,000,000.
(19) Allowances (920):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $27,679,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $18,575,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, −$48,134,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$19,403,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, −$50,972,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$35,311,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, −$54,331,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$47,988,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, −$56,504,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$53,490,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, −$59,623,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$58,510,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, −$61,801,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$61,123,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, −$63,711,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$63,348,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, −$66,015,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$65,559,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, −$62,662,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$65,293,000,000.
(20) New Efficiencies, Consolidations, and Other Savings (930):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, −$426,137,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$308,812,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, −$668,153,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$468,659,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, −$882,483,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$647,654,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, −$1,209,600,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$905,483,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, −$1,331,706,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$1,069,229,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, −$1,470,058,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$1,235,992,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, −$1,712,029,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$1,443,138,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, −$1,899,768,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$1,660,922,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, −$2,064,040,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$1,840,142,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, −$2,411,721,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$2,169,051,000,000.
(21) Undistributed Offsetting Receipts (950):
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, −$81,989,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$81,989,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, −$83,624,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$83,624,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, −$85,942,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$85,942,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, −$88,436,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$88,436,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, −$88,048,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$88,048,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, −$90,874,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$90,874,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, −$100,925,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$100,925,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, −$96,114,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$96,114,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, −$98,827,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$98,827,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, −$102,191,000,000.
(B) Outlays, −$102,191,000,000.

Subtitle B—Levels and Amounts in the Senate

SEC. 1201. SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE SENATE.

(a) SOCIAL SECURITY REVENUES.—For purposes of Senate enforcement under sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633 and 642), the amounts of revenues of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are as follows:
Fiscal year 2019: $905,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $941,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $995,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $1,049,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $1,103,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $1,164,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: $1,226,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026: $1,296,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $1,361,000,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $1,442,000,000,000.
(b) SOCIAL SECURITY OUTLAYS.—For purposes of Senate enforcement under sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633 and 642), the amounts of outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are as follows:
Fiscal year 2019: $897,332,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020: $955,095,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021: $1,015,309,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022: $1,079,773,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023: $1,147,889,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024: $1,219,609,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025: $1,293,326,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026: $1,370,789,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027: $1,451,789,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028: $1,539,941,000,000.
(c) SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—In the Senate, the amounts of new budget authority and budget outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for administrative expenses are as follows:
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $5,627,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,831,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $5,759,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,685,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $5,906,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,837,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $6,057,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $5,975,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $6,236,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,142,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $6,424,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,331,000,000.
Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $6,616,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,522,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $6,816,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,718,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $7,023,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $6,922,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $7,246,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $7,186,000,000.

SEC. 1202. POSTAL SERVICE DISCRETIONARY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES IN THE SENATE.

In the Senate, the amounts of new budget authority and budget outlays of the Postal Service for discretionary administrative expenses are as follows:
Fiscal year 2019:
(A) New budget authority, $285,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $285,000,000.
Fiscal year 2020:
(A) New budget authority, $284,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $284,000,000.
Fiscal year 2021:
(A) New budget authority, $285,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $285,000,000.
Fiscal year 2022:
(A) New budget authority, $286,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $286,000,000.
Fiscal year 2023:
(A) New budget authority, $286,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $286,000,000.
Fiscal year 2024:
(A) New budget authority, $287,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $287,000,000.

Fiscal year 2025:
(A) New budget authority, $288,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $288,000,000.
Fiscal year 2026:
(A) New budget authority, $289,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $289,000,000.
Fiscal year 2027:
(A) New budget authority, $289,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $289,000,000.
Fiscal year 2028:
(A) New budget authority, $290,000,000.
(B) Outlays, $290,000,000.

TITLE II—RECONCILIATION

SEC. 2001. RECONCILIATION IN THE SENATE.

(a) AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY.—The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(b) ARMED SERVICES.—The Committee on Armed Services of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(c) BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS.—The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(d) COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION.—The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(e) ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.—The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(f) ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS.—The Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(g) FINANCE.—

(1) DEFICIT.—The Committee on Finance of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(2) REVENUE.—The Committee on Finance of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce revenues by not less than $18,600,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(h) FOREIGN RELATIONS.—The Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(i) HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS.—The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(j) HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS.—The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(k) INDIAN AFFAIRS.—The Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(l) INTELLIGENCE.—The Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(m) JUDICIARY.—The Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(n) RULES AND ADMINISTRATION.—The Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(o) VETERANS AFFAIRS.—The Committee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to reduce the deficit by not less than $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019 and by not less than $5,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

(p) SUBMISSIONS.—In the Senate, not later than June 20, 2018, the committees named in subsections (a) through (o) shall submit their recommendations to the Committee on the Budget of the Senate. Upon receiving such recommendations, the Committee on the Budget of the Senate shall report to the Senate a reconciliation bill carrying out all such recommendations without any substantive revision.

TITLE III—RESERVE FUNDS

SEC. 3001. DEFICIT REDUCTION FUND FOR EFFICIENCIES, CONSOLIDATIONS, AND OTHER SAVINGS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution, and make adjustments to the pay-as-you-go ledger, for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to efficiencies, consolidations, and other savings by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes, provided that such legislation would reduce the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2019 through 2023 and the period of the total of fiscal years 2019 through 2028.

SEC. 3002. RESERVE FUND RELATING TO HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution, and make adjustments to the pay-as-you-go ledger, for one or more bills, joint resolutions, amendments, amendments between the Houses, motions, or conference reports relating to health savings accounts by the amounts provided in such legislation for those purposes.

TITLE IV—BUDGET PROCESS

SEC. 4001. VOTING THRESHOLD FOR POINTS OF ORDER.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''covered point of order'' means a point of order—

(1) under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.), the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.), or a concurrent resolution on the budget; and

(2) which, but for subsection (b), may be waived only by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn.

(b) VOTING THRESHOLD.—In the Senate—

(1) a covered point of order may be waived only by the affirmative vote of five-eighths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn; and

(2) an affirmative vote of five-eighths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a covered point of order.

SEC. 4002. EMERGENCY LEGISLATION.

(a) AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE.—In the Senate, with respect to a provision of direct spending or receipts legislation or appropriations for discretionary accounts that Congress designates as an emergency requirement, by an affirmative vote of five-eighths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn, in such measure, the amounts of new budget authority, outlays, and receipts in all fiscal years resulting from that provision shall be treated as an emergency requirement for the purpose of this section.

(b) EXEMPTION OF EMERGENCY PROVISIONS.—Any new budget authority, outlays, and receipts resulting from any provision designated as an emergency requirement, pursuant to this section, in any bill, joint resolution, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report shall not count for purposes of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633 and 642), section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, section 3101 of S. Con. Res. 11 (114th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2016, and sections 401 and 404 of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010. Designated emergency provisions shall not count for the purpose of revising allocations, aggregates, or other levels pursuant to procedures established under section 301(b)(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632(b)(7)) for deficit-neutral reserve funds and revising discretionary spending limits set pursuant to section 301 of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

(c) DESIGNATIONS.—If a provision of legislation is designated as an emergency requirement under this section, the committee report and any statement of managers accompanying that legislation shall include an explanation of the manner in which the provision meets the criteria in subsection (f).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''direct spending'', ''receipts'', and ''appropriations for discretionary accounts'' mean any provision of a bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that affects direct spending, receipts, or appropriations as those terms have been defined and interpreted for purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.).

(e) POINT OF ORDER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—When the Senate is considering a bill, resolution, amendment, motion, amendment between the Houses, or conference report, if a point of order is made by a Senator against an emergency designation in that measure, that provision making

such a designation shall be stricken from the measure and may not be offered as an amendment from the floor.

(2) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEALS.—

(A) WAIVER.—Paragraph (1) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of five-eighths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(B) APPEALS.—Appeals in the Senate from the decisions of the Chair relating to any provision of this subsection shall be limited to 1 hour, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the appellant and the manager of the bill or joint resolution, as the case may be. An affirmative vote of five-eighths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this subsection.

(3) DEFINITION OF AN EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a provision shall be considered an emergency designation if it designates any item as an emergency requirement pursuant to this subsection.

(4) FORM OF THE POINT OF ORDER.—A point of order under paragraph (1) may be raised by a Senator as provided in section 313(e) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 644(e)).

(5) CONFERENCE REPORTS.—When the Senate is considering a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to, a bill, upon a point of order being made by any Senator pursuant to this section, and such point of order being sustained, such material contained in such conference report shall be stricken, and the Senate shall proceed to consider the question of whether the Senate shall recede from its amendment and concur with a further amendment, or concur in the House amendment with a further amendment, as the case may be, which further amendment shall consist of only that portion of the conference report or House amendment, as the case may be, not so stricken. Any such motion in the Senate shall be debatable. In any case in which such point of order is sustained against a conference report (or Senate amendment derived from such conference report by operation of this subsection), no further amendment shall be in order.

(f) CRITERIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, any provision is an emergency requirement if the situation addressed by such provision is—

(A) necessary, essential, or vital (not merely useful or beneficial);

(B) sudden, quickly coming into being, and not building up over time;

(C) an urgent, pressing, and compelling need requiring immediate action;

(D) subject to paragraph (2), unforeseen, unpredictable, and unanticipated; and

(E) not permanent, temporary in nature.

(2) UNFORESEEN.—An emergency that is part of an aggregate level of anticipated emergencies, particularly when normally estimated in advance, is not unforeseen.

(g) INAPPLICABILITY.—In the Senate, section 4112 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018, shall no longer apply.

SEC. 4003. ENFORCEMENT OF ALLOCATIONS, AGGREGATES, AND OTHER LEVELS.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—During each of fiscal years 2019 through 2028, it shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report that would cause the amount of new budget authority, outlays, or deficits to be more than, or would cause the amount of revenues to be less than, the amount set forth under any allocation, aggregate, or other level established under this resolution.

(b) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of five-eighths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of five-eighths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

SEC. 4004. DUPLICATION DETERMINATIONS BY THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''covered legislation'' means a bill or resolution of a public character reported by any committee of the Senate.

(b) DUPLICATION DETERMINATIONS BY THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE.—Any estimate provided by the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 653) for covered legislation shall include an analysis that includes—

(1) a determination of whether the covered legislation creates any new Federal program, office, or initiative that would duplicate or overlap with any existing Federal entity with similar mission, purpose, goals, or activities; and

(2) a listing of all such instances of duplication or overlapping created by the covered legislation.

SEC. 4005. BREAKDOWN OF COST ESTIMATES BY BUDGET FUNCTION.

Any cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office shall specify the percentage of the estimated cost that is within each budget function.

SEC. 4006. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON TREATMENT OF REDUCTION OF APPROPRIATIONS LEVELS TO ACHIEVE SAVINGS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) H. Con. Res. 448 (96th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 1981, gave authorizing committees reconciliation instructions which amounted to approximately two-thirds of the savings required under reconciliation.

(2) The language in H. Con. Res. 448 resulted in a debate about how reconciling discretionary spending programs could be in order given that authorizations of appropriations for programs did not actually change spending and the programs authorized would be funded through later annual appropriation. The staff of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the counsel to the Majority Leader advised that upon consultation with the Parliamentarian, the original instructions on discretionary spending would be out of order because of the phrase, ''to modify programs''. This was seen as too broad and programs could be modified without resulting in changes to their future appropriations.

(3) To rectify this violation, the Committee on the Budget of the Senate reported S. Con. Res. 9 (97th Congress), revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1981, 1982, and 1983, to include reconciliation, which revised the language in the reconciliation instructions to change entitlement law and ''to report changes in laws within the jurisdiction of that committee sufficient to reduce appropriations levels so as to achieve savings''.

(4) This was understood to mean changes in authorization language of discretionary programs would be permissible under reconciliation procedures provided such changes in law would have the result in affecting a change in later outlays derived from future appropriations. Further it was understood that a change in authorization language that caused a change in later outlays was considered to be a change in outlays for the purpose of reconciliation.

(5) On April 2, 1981, the Senate voted 88 to 10 to approve S. Con. Res. 9 with the modified reconciliation language.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that committees reporting changes in laws within the jurisdiction of that committee sufficient to reduce appropriations levels so as to achieve savings shall be considered to be changes in outlays for the purpose of enforcing the prohibition on extraneous matters in reconciliation bills.

SEC. 4007. PROHIBITION ON PREEMPTIVE WAIVERS.

In the Senate, it shall not be in order to move to waive or suspend a point of order under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 621 et seq.) or any concurrent resolution on the budget with respect to a bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report unless the point of order has been specifically raised by a Senator.

SEC. 4008. ADJUSTMENTS FOR LEGISLATION REDUCING APPROPRIATIONS.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations in effect under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a)) and the allocations of a committee or committees, aggregates, and other appropriate levels in this resolution for any bill or joint resolution considered pursuant to section 2001 containing the recommendations of one or more committees, or for one or more amendments to, a conference report on, or an amendment between the Houses in relation to such a bill or joint resolution, by the amounts necessary to accommodate the reduction in the amount of discretionary appropriations for a fiscal year caused by the measure.

SEC. 4009. AUTHORITY.

Congress adopts this title under the authority under section 301(b)(4) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 632(b)(4)).

SEC. 4010. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.

Congress adopts the provisions of this title—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate, and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of the Senate and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such other rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of the Senate to change those rules at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as is the case of any other rule of the Senate.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I have 13 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Abusive Robocalls and How We Can Stop Them.''

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''The Appropriate Role of States and the Federal Government in Protecting Groundwater.''

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 10:30 a.m to conduct a hearing ''Treaties.''

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: David Williams, of Illinois, Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, and Calvin R. Tucker, of Pennsylvania, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 2.30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''The 30th Anniversary of Tribal Self-Governance: Successes in Self-Governance and an Outlook for the Next 30 Years''.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.''

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, during votes and off the Senate floor to conduct a hearing on the following nominations. Paul R. Lawrence, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Benefits, and Joseph L. Falvey, Jr., of Michigan, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 9.30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Exploitation of Older Americans by Guardians and Others they Trust.''

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON SOLVENCY OF MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION PLANS

The Joint Select Committee on Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 2 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, ''The History of Structure of the Multiemployer Pension System.''

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

The Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 3:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION, PRODUCT SAFETY, INSURANCE, AND DATA SECURITY

The Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, ''Olympic Abuse: The Role of National Governing Bodies in Protection our Athletes.''

SUBCOMMITTEE ON BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION

The Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 2.30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled ''Strengthening and Reforming America's Immigration Court System.''

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Fiona Steiwer, be given privileges of the floor for the remainder of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to Mary Schultz and William Goldsmith, both fellows in my staff, for the remainder of this session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 361, S. Res. 426.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 426) supporting the goals of International Women's Day.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to the preamble, as follows:

(Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic.)

Whereas, as of March 2018, there are more than 3,672,000,000 women in the world;

Whereas women and girls around the world—

(1) have fundamental rights;

(2) participate in the political, social, and economic lives of their communities;

(3) play a critical role in providing and caring for their families;

(4) contribute substantially to economic growth and the prevention and resolution of conflict; and

(5) as farmers and caregivers, play an important role in the advancement of food security for their communities;

Whereas the advancement of women around the world is a foreign policy priority for the United States;

Whereas 2018 marks—

(1) the 73rd anniversary of the entry into force of the Charter of the United Nations, which was the first international agreement to affirm the principle of equality between women and men;

(2) the 23rd anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, at which 189 countries committed to integrating gender equality into each dimension of society; and

(3) the 7th anniversary of the establishment of the first United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, which includes a comprehensive set of commitments by the United States to advance the meaningful participation of women in decisionmaking relating to matters of war or peace;

Whereas the National Security Strategy of the United States, revised in December 2017—

(1) declares that ''societies that empower women to participate fully in civic and economic life are more prosperous and peaceful'';

(2) supports ''efforts to advance the equality of women, protect the rights of women and girls, and promote women and youth empowerment programs''; and

(3) recognizes that ''governments of countries that fail to treat women equally do not allow the societies of those countries to reach full potential'';

Whereas the United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, revised in June 2016, states that ''[d]eadly conflicts can be more effectively avoided, and peace can be best forged and sustained, when women become equal partners in all aspects of peacebuilding and conflict prevention, when their lives are protected, their voices heard, and their perspectives taken into account.'';

Whereas there are 72 national action plans around the world, and there are several additional national action plans known to be in development;

Whereas the joint strategy of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development entitled ''Department of State & USAID Joint Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism'' and dated May 2016—

(1) notes that women can play a critical role in identifying and addressing drivers of violent extremism in their families, communities, and broader society; and

(2) commits to supporting programs that engage women ''as key stakeholders in preventing and countering violent extremism in their communities'';

Whereas, despite the historical underrepresentation of women in conflict resolution processes, women in conflict-affected regions have nevertheless achieved significant success in—

(1) moderating violent extremism;

(2) countering terrorism;

(3) resolving disputes through nonviolent mediation and negotiation; and

(4) stabilizing societies by improving access to peace and security—

(A) services;

(B) institutions; and

(C) venues for decisionmaking;

Whereas, according to the United Nations, peace negotiations are more likely to end in a peace agreement when women and women's groups play an influential role in the negotiation process;

Whereas, according to a study by the International Peace Institute, a peace agreement is 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years if women participate in the development of the peace agreement;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Department of State, the full and

meaningful participation of women in security forces vastly enhances the effectiveness of the security forces;

Whereas approximately 15,000,000 girls are married every year before they reach the age of 18, which means that—

(1) 41,000 girls are married every day; or

(2) 1 girl is married every 2 seconds;

Whereas, according to the International Labor Organization, an estimated 40,300,000 people were victims of modern slavery in 2016, and 71 percent of those victims were women and girls;

Whereas, according to UNICEF—

(1) approximately ¼ of girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are victims of physical violence; and

(2) it is estimated that 1 in 3 women around the world has experienced some form of physical or sexual violence;

Whereas, according to the 2016 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled ''Global Report on Trafficking in Persons''—

(1) 79 percent of all detected trafficking victims are women and children; and

(2) while trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor are the most prominently detected forms of trafficking, the trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of forced marriage is emerging as a more prevalent form of trafficking;

Whereas 603,000,000 women live in countries in which domestic violence is not criminalized;

Whereas, on August 10, 2012, the United States Government launched a strategy entitled ''United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally'', which is the first interagency strategy that—

(1) addresses gender-based violence around the world;

(2) advances the rights and status of women and girls;

(3) promotes gender equality in United States foreign policy; and

(4) works to bring about a world in which all individuals can pursue their aspirations without the threat of violence;

Whereas, on October 6, 2017, the Women, Peace, and Security Act was enacted into law, which includes requirements for a government-wide ''Women, Peace, and Security Strategy'' to promote and strengthen women's participation in peace negotiations and conflict prevention overseas, enhanced training for relevant United States Government personnel, and follow-up evaluations of the effectiveness of the strategy;

Whereas, on October 27, 2017, Ambassador Michele J. Sison, United States Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, stated in a United Nations Security Council debate on women, peace, and security that—

(1) ''the role of women in maintaining international peace and security is more critical than ever'';

(2) ''collective work is still required for women to gain more positions of leadership in government and civil society, and more seats at the negotiating table'';

(3) ''a growing body of evidence confirm[s] that the inclusion of women in peace processes helps reduce conflict and advance stability long-term''; and

(4) ''when women are involved in efforts to bring about peace and security, the results are more sustainable'';

Whereas, in June 2016, the Department of State released an update to the strategy entitled ''United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally'', based on internal evaluations, lessons learned, and consultations with civil society, that underscores that ''preventing and responding to gender-based violence is a cornerstone of the U.S. government's commitment to advancing human rights and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls'';

Whereas the ability of women and girls to realize their full potential is critical to the ability of a country to achieve—

(1) strong and lasting economic growth; and

(2) political and social stability;

Whereas, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization—

(1) ⅔ of the 778,000,000 illiterate individuals in the world are female; and

(2) 130,000,000 girls worldwide are not in school;

Whereas, according to the United States Agency for International Development, as compared to uneducated women, educated women are—

(1) less likely to marry as children; and

(2) more likely to have healthier families;

Whereas, although the United Nations Millennium Project reached the goal of achieving gender parity in primary education in most countries in 2015, more work remains to be done to achieve gender equality in primary education worldwide by addressing—

(1) discriminatory practices;

(2) cultural norms;

(3) inadequate sanitation facilities; and

(4) other factors that favor boys;

Whereas, according to the United Nations, women have access to fewer income earning opportunities and are more likely to manage the household or engage in agricultural work than men, making women more vulnerable to economic insecurity caused by—

(1) natural disasters; and

(2) long term changes in weather patterns;

Whereas women around the world—

(1) face a variety of constraints that severely limit their economic participation and productivity; and

(2) are underrepresented in the labor force;

Whereas closing the global gender gap in labor markets could increase worldwide gross domestic product by as much as $28,000,000,000,000 by 2025;

Whereas despite the achievements of individual female leaders—

(1) women around the world remain vastly underrepresented in—

(A) high-level positions; and

(B) national and local legislatures and governments; and

(2) according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, women account for only 22 percent of national parliamentarians and 17.7 percent of government ministers;

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, during the period beginning in 1990 and ending in 2015, global maternal mortality decreased by approximately 44 percent, but approximately 830 women die from preventable causes relating to pregnancy or childbirth each day, and 99 percent of all maternal deaths occur in developing countries;

Whereas according to the World Health Organization—

(1) suicide is the leading cause of death for girls between the ages of 15 and 19; and

(2) complications from pregnancy or childbirth is the second-leading cause of death for those girls;

Whereas the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports that women and girls comprise approximately ½ of the 65,300,000 refugees and internally displaced or stateless individuals in the world;

Whereas it is imperative—

(1) to alleviate violence and discrimination against women; and

(2) to afford women every opportunity to be full and productive members of their communities;

Whereas violence, discrimination, and harmful practices against women and girls are a direct result of negative social norms that undervalue females in society; and

Whereas March 8, 2018, is recognized as International Women's Day, a global day—

(1) to celebrate the economic, political, and social achievements of women in the past, present, and future; and

(2) to recognize the obstacles that women face in the struggle for equal rights and opportunities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of International Women's Day;

(2) recognizes that the empowerment of women is inextricably linked to the potential of a country to generate—

(A) economic growth;

(B) sustainable democracy; and

(C) inclusive security;

(3) recognizes and honors individuals in the United States and around the world, including women human rights defenders and civil society leaders, that have worked throughout history to ensure that women are guaranteed equality and basic human rights;

(4) recognizes the unique cultural, historical, and religious differences throughout the world and urges the United States Government to act with respect and understanding toward legitimate differences when promoting any policies;

(5) reaffirms the commitment—

(A) to end discrimination and violence against women and girls;

(B) to ensure the safety and welfare of women and girls;

(C) to pursue policies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls worldwide; and

(D) to promote meaningful and significant participation of women in every aspect of society and community;

(6) supports sustainable, measurable, and global development that seeks to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women; and

(7) encourages the people of the United States to observe International Women's Day with appropriate programs and activities.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the resolution?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 426) was agreed to.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to and the preamble, as amended, be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 426

Whereas as of March 2018, there are more than 3,672,000,000 women in the world;

Whereas women and girls around the world—

(1) have fundamental rights;

(2) participate in the political, social, and economic lives of their communities;

(3) play a critical role in providing and caring for their families;

(4) contribute substantially to economic growth and the prevention and resolution of conflict; and

(5) as farmers and caregivers, play an important role in the advancement of food security for their communities;

Whereas the advancement of women around the world is a foreign policy priority for the United States;

Whereas 2018 marks—

(1) the 73rd anniversary of the entry into force of the Charter of the United Nations, which was the first international agreement to affirm the principle of equality between women and men;

(2) the 23rd anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, at which 189 countries committed to integrating gender equality into each dimension of society; and

(3) the 7th anniversary of the establishment of the first United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, which includes a comprehensive set of commitments by the United States to advance the meaningful participation of women in decisionmaking relating to matters of war or peace;

Whereas the National Security Strategy of the United States, revised in December 2017—

(1) declares that ''societies that empower women to participate fully in civic and economic life are more prosperous and peaceful'';

(2) supports ''efforts to advance the equality of women, protect the rights of women and girls, and promote women and youth empowerment programs''; and

(3) recognizes that ''governments of countries that fail to treat women equally do not allow the societies of those countries to reach full potential'';

Whereas the United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, revised in June 2016, states that ''[d]eadly conflicts can be more effectively avoided, and peace can be best forged and sustained, when women become equal partners in all aspects of peacebuilding and conflict prevention, when their lives are protected, their voices heard, and their perspectives taken into account.'';

Whereas there are 72 national action plans around the world, and there are several additional national action plans known to be in development;

Whereas the joint strategy of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development entitled ''Department of State & USAID Joint Strategy on Countering Violent Extremism'' and dated May 2016—

(1) notes that women can play a critical role in identifying and addressing drivers of violent extremism in their families, communities, and broader society; and

(2) commits to supporting programs that engage women ''as key stakeholders in preventing and countering violent extremism in their communities'';

Whereas despite the historical underrepresentation of women in conflict resolution processes, women in conflict-affected regions have nevertheless achieved significant success in—

(1) moderating violent extremism;

(2) countering terrorism;

(3) resolving disputes through nonviolent mediation and negotiation; and

(4) stabilizing societies by improving access to peace and security—

(A) services;

(B) institutions; and

(C) venues for decisionmaking;

Whereas according to the United Nations, peace negotiations are more likely to end in a peace agreement when women and women's groups play an influential role in the negotiation process;

Whereas according to a study by the International Peace Institute, a peace agreement is 35 percent more likely to last at least 15 years if women participate in the development of the peace agreement;

Whereas according to the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Department of State, the full and meaningful participation of women in security forces vastly enhances the effectiveness of the security forces;

Whereas approximately 15,000,000 girls are married every year before they reach the age of 18, which means that—

(1) 41,000 girls are married every day; or

(2) 1 girl is married every 2 seconds;

Whereas according to the International Labor Organization, an estimated 40,300,000 people were victims of modern slavery in 2016, and 71 percent of those victims were women and girls;

Whereas according to UNICEF—

(1) approximately ¼ of girls between the ages of 15 and 19 are victims of physical violence; and

(2) it is estimated that 1 in 3 women around the world has experienced some form of physical or sexual violence;

Whereas according to the 2016 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled ''Global Report on Trafficking in Persons''—

(1) 79 percent of all detected trafficking victims are women and children; and

(2) while trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor are the most prominently detected forms of trafficking, the trafficking of women and girls for the purpose of forced marriage is emerging as a more prevalent form of trafficking;

Whereas 603,000,000 women live in countries in which domestic violence is not criminalized;

Whereas, on August 10, 2012, the United States Government launched a strategy entitled ''United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally'', which is the first interagency strategy that—

(1) addresses gender-based violence around the world;

(2) advances the rights and status of women and girls;

(3) promotes gender equality in United States foreign policy; and

(4) works to bring about a world in which all individuals can pursue their aspirations without the threat of violence;

Whereas, on October 6, 2017, the Women, Peace, and Security Act was enacted into law, which includes requirements for a government-wide ''Women, Peace, and Security Strategy'' to promote and strengthen women's participation in peace negotiations and conflict prevention overseas, enhanced training for relevant United States Government personnel, and follow-up evaluations of the effectiveness of the strategy;

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(A) high-level positions; and

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Whereas according to the World Health Organization—

(1) suicide is the leading cause of death for girls between the ages of 15 and 19; and

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Whereas the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports that women and girls comprise approximately ½ of the 65,300,000 refugees and internally displaced or stateless individuals in the world;

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(C) to pursue policies that guarantee the basic human rights of women and girls worldwide; and

(D) to promote meaningful and significant participation of women in every aspect of society and community;

(6) supports sustainable, measurable, and global development that seeks to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women; and

(7) encourages the people of the United States to observe International Women's Day with appropriate programs and activities.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING A SENATOR TO BRING A YOUNG SON OR DAUGHTER OF THE SENATOR ONTO THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE DURING VOTES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 463 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 463) authorizing a Senator to bring a young son or daughter of the Senator onto the floor of the Senate during votes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 463) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in the RECORD of April 12, 2018, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 474, S. Res. 475, and S. Res. 476.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, April 19; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Bridenstine nomination. I further ask that all postcloture time on the Bridenstine nomination expire at 1:45 p.m. tomorrow and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Bridenstine nomination with no intervening action or debate; finally, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 474, and do so as a further mark of respect for the late John Melcher, former Senator from Montana, following the remarks of Senators DURBIN, INHOFE, and PORTMAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Illinois.

ALLOWING SENATORS' YOUNG CHILDREN ON THE SENATE FLOOR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on Monday April 9, 2018, at 7:07 a.m., a tiny little message to the Senate arrived: Maile Pearl Bowlsbey became the very first baby born to a Senator, bringing joy to her father Bryan and to her amazing mother, my colleague, Illinois Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH.

With this blessed arrival, this Chamber faced the reality of Senate parenthood. And tonight, just moments ago, we made the decision to allow Maile to help us make Senate history. Tonight we changed the standing rules of the Senate so that Senator DUCKWORTH, and any other Senator who has an infant, can bring their child to the floor of the Senate during a vote.

Senator DUCKWORTH can keep her responsibility under our Constitution and vote as a Senator without giving up her responsibility as a mom at that moment.

I think it will do us good in the Senate every once in a while to see a pacifier next to the antique ink wells on our desks or a diaper bag next to one of these brass spittoons which sits on the floor—thank goodness, never used. Perhaps, the occasional cry of a baby will shock the Senate at times into speaking up and even crying out on the issues that confront our Nation and the world.

We certainly revere history in the Senate, but part of our history is recognizing change—the change that brought the first woman to the Senate, the change that brought disabled people to the floor of the Senate, and changes that will come to it in the future. These adaptations have made us a better Senate and more reflective of the people we serve.

I just can't say enough about my colleague Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH, an amazing woman who served her country, activated in the Illinois National Guard as a helicopter pilot in Iraq. When a grenade was shot into the cockpit and blew up and caused her grievous injuries, many people wondered if she would survive. She not only survived, but she prospered. She is determined and brave. She now is the mother of two little girls—something just short of a miracle—and that motherhood is something that is a source of great joy to all of us who count TAMMY as a friend and a colleague and a great leader in the Senate.

Let me also give special recognition to two of my colleagues who made this resolution possible. Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR worked closely with TAMMY

DUCKWORTH on this issue and is our ranking Democrat on the Senate Rules Committee. AMY put in a lot of hours and good humor, and I thank her from the bottom of my heart for helping our colleague. And special thanks to Senator ROY BLUNT, the Republican chairman of the Senate Rules Committee. ROY BLUNT told me from the start: I support this resolution. It will come right out of the Rules Committee to the floor so we can move on it quickly. When TAMMY DUCKWORTH returns from maternity leave, we will be able to accommodate her little girl and, if it becomes necessary, to bring her to the floor during the course of a vote.

Let me close by saying that today we officially say to Maile Pearl Bowlsbey: Welcome to the world and welcome to the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, let me, first of all, join my friend from Illinois in this tribute he is making to TAMMY and the baby. I do have to correct him on one thing, however. He talked about diaper bags. They don't use diaper bags anymore. They are disposable diapers. I know because I have 20 kids and grandkids. But I agree with the Senator's remarks wholeheartedly.

ETHIOPIA

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I know there is a lot of competition for the time right now, and I feel badly that I finally got to the point where, in order to get the message out—it is a message many people think is not significant, but I assure you that this is of grave importance not just to a country but to the entire continent of Africa.

The House of Representatives, just last week, passed H. Res. 128 to chastise one of our closest allies on the African continent, Ethiopia. Although the legislation claims to support Ethiopia, the reality is that the resolution is outdated. It was written years ago and was blindly passed without consideration for the current situation in Ethiopia. It was also passed under a voice vote so that no one member of Congress would have to carry the stigma of being on the record voting for it.

I know the House passed it because most of them have never been to Ethiopia and don't really know the miracle we have seen in that country. I know the transformation Ethiopia has made in economic and social development alongside their ongoing commitment to establishing security in the Horn of Africa.

Since 2005, I have visited Ethiopia 18 different times, engaging and developing relationships with Prime Ministers, with Cabinet Ministers, legislators, businessmen, aid workers, and everyone else in between. There isn't another Member of Congress who has traveled in Ethiopia, engaged with the Ethiopian Government and the Ethiopian people more than I have.

I say this for a reason. It is to show that I know something about Ethiopia. I know we have been here before. What happened last week has happened before. People don't even know it. So they passed a negative resolution on Ethiopia by voice vote. The resolution fails to understand the history of Ethiopia. I want to talk about that.

Ethiopia is the oldest independent country in all of Africa, but one that is newly democratic. It is all new to them.

There is also a Christian history to the nation, which nobody else has on the continent of Africa. Ethiopia is featured in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

In the New Testament, we hear about Philip. This is in Acts 8. Philip meets the Ethiopian eunuch on the road to Damascus. We find out later that the eunuch was actually the treasurer of the country of Ethiopia at that time. Philip told the eunuch about Jesus. He talked about the Old Testament and the Queen of Sheba and Solomon. There are over 50 of these mentions in the Bible. They had long conversations about Jesus.

Philip was making these comments. Before the conversation was over, he baptized the eunuch. The eunuch went off to Ethiopia and took the first word of Jesus to Ethiopia. That is very significant.

Coincidentally, while Addis Ababa is the capital of Ethiopia, there was a time when Aksum was the capital. That was many years ago. During the time of the Queen of Sheba, that was the capital of Ethiopia.

Coincidentally, I happened to be in Ethiopia when a farmer in a field ran into some old relics, and they started excavating. They found out that was the palace of the Queen of Sheba. There had been discussion as to whether or not the Queen of Sheba was from Yemen or Ethiopia, but that was concrete proof they had discovered that it was the case. The story goes on and on.

We all know about the Queen of Sheba and Solomon. Solomon had all the wealth in the world, and she wanted to meet Solomon. She went down to the Red Sea to see Solomon. Well, she got to Israel and she met Solomon. They were engaged very closely together. I think we all know that they ended up having a son who went back to his country.

By the way, the part of the Old Testament I am quoting right now is in 1 Kings 10:1. That is about the trip between Israel and Ethiopia. Sheba and Solomon had a boy. The boy was Menelik. He was a very smart person. As he was growing up in years, before returning to their home country in Ethiopia, he actually took the Ark of the Covenant back to Ethiopia, where it is today in Aksum.

A lot of people don't know that. If anyone questions what I am saying right now, there is a book written that was called ''The Sign and the Seal,'' by Graham Hancock. It is very well-documented. When you read that, you come to the conclusion that this is where the Ark of the Covenant is. I have been to the Ark of the Covenant with many Members of the Senate here—certainly, Senator BOOZMAN from Arkansas, Senator MIKE ENZI from Wyoming, Senator MIKE ROUNDS from South Dakota, and many others. We have been up there and we have actually seen where this has taken place.

I say this because there is that very rich history. It is all documented in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The current controversy, and why we are here today, started back in the 1970s with a man named Mengistu. From 1974 to 1991, Mengistu was the leader of the communist Derg. This was the controlling party at that time. It is a communist party. They ran Ethiopia. It was a terrible time for Ethiopia. That was during one of the worst famines they had, which killed over a million people—perhaps the most significant famine in history in terms of deaths.

Many Ethiopians fled during that time and relocated in the United States. That is understandable. The communists were booted out. A lot of the people, during the time they were still in, came to the United States.

It is interesting because the Ethiopians are very outstanding people. They are the kind that get things done when other people don't. That makes them different from all the other countries in Africa.

So a lot of these Ethiopians came to America, and they have made great, really remarkable contributions to America, building organizations and getting involved. Rightfully so, they were outspoken against the brutal regime, but they haven't changed their outspokenness to reflect the changing conditions in Ethiopia.

At the time that this took place, one person who was responsible, to a large extent, for getting rid of the communists and the communist threat in Ethiopia was a guy named Meles. He ran, he came from the bush, and he won. He ended up as Prime Minister. This is really the election that a lot of people don't like, and they forget about the fact that he was the Prime Minister who actually got rid of the communists in Ethiopia.

So he became a Prime Minister. He started to build democracy. He died in 2012. I got to know him quite well during that timeframe, and I saw the progress that he made and the advances they made.

He was then replaced by another Prime Minister, whose name is Hailemariam. Now, he became Prime Minister, and he continued to push for democracy. Hailemariam worked diligently to improve things.

Under his tenure, Ethiopia established the independent Ethiopian Human Rights Committee to report on violence and human rights problems and abuses. They didn't just establish

it; they acted on it. They came out with a report and acted on it to hold perpetrators accountable and to make the improvements that were being made. Our relationship wasn't just government to government; it was brother to brother.

In February of 2017, Prime Minister Hailemariam suggested that, since the provinces were all fighting at that time—there were nine provinces in Ethiopia. Each province has a Governor. We suggested on the phone, with the Members of the Senate here and the House at a Prayer Breakfast, that what we ought to do is that we ought to follow the recommendation of Eisenhower. He said—in fact, this is right after World War II: The problems of this world are so great that we will never resolve the problems until we learn to sit down and pray together. So we decided: Let's get all the Governors, the Prime Minister, the Members of the House, the Senate, and the rest together, and we will pray for them.

We did this. In fact, I had five Senators with me at that time, and we went over. The problem was only two Governors showed up. So 8 months later, we came back and put together the same thing and talked to them to let them know what this is all about. And it happened 8 months later. We were just talking about it just recently.

We had nine Governors who had been fighting. Hailemariam and we all prayed together.

Now, at the same time, there was a Congressman, RANDY HULTGREN, over at the House, who happened to be president of the House Prayer Breakfast. The time change worked perfectly. At the time we were praying there, if you took the 7-hour differential, they were meeting at the House Prayer Breakfast here in Washington. So he joined in. Now, I am not smart enough to figure out how they do this. It is some kind of thing called Skype, where you can get on TV and communicate. So they were praying over there with all of these House Members at the same time that we were praying. On top of that, we had a bunch of great pages, like the pages sitting right in front of me today, all praying at the same time. This was going on all over America.

So they all got together, and it worked—the same group of people who had just hated each other, who had never been in the same room before. The Prime Minister and all of us—Members of the Senate and others who were there—were all rejoicing and embracing each other.

That's really significant. The 9 governors had never been together before. The majority of Americans can't easily grasp this, but is different in Ethiopia. Most of the people don't live in cities, and that made this effort that much more difficult. That is the reverse of the rest of the world. The vast majority of people who live there are in rural communities, and that made this widespread change and development a longer and more difficult path.

In Ethiopia, the tribal factions also play a greater role. Anyone who has been there understands this. If you go from Province to Province, that used to be from tribe to tribe, and they historically have not gotten along until this time. So it made it more difficult because of the factions and all of that, but it worked. We unified them together, and that was unlike anything that has ever happened.

Earlier this month, Ethiopia took another step to showing their commitment to a free and fair democracy by selecting a new Prime Minister. And who is this? His name is Abiy Ahmed, a doctor.

In fact, it is kind of interesting, if you think about his credentials. Just listen to this. Abiy received his first degree, a bachelor's degree, in computer engineering from the Microlink Information Technology College in Addis. That was in 2001.

In 2005, Abiy earned a postgraduate certificate in cryptography in South Africa. He holds a master of arts in transformational leadership and change with merit, earned at the Business School in Greenwich University in London, in collaboration with the International Leadership Institute in Addis, in 2011. He holds a master of business administration from the Leadstar College of Management and Leadership in Addis, in partnership with Ashland University in Ohio.

In 2017, Abiy was awarded a Ph.D. from the Institute for Peace and Security Studies at Addis Ababa University.

Now, we haven't studied it all the way through, but what we did is we took a cursory look at that, and we believe he is the most highly educated Prime Minister in the history of the continent.

Here we are with this Dr. Abiy, who has been specially selected for his commitment to democracy, good governance, and the rule of law. I met Abiy for the first time in February of 2016 at a leader's breakfast, where he told the story of his journey of faith in Jesus. He is very, very articulate, someone who no one would forget about.

We met a year later, when we prayed and talked about how to unify the country in peace, not conflict. It is from these meetings that I know that Abiy is committed to democracy and the future of Ethiopia. He is showing that with his actions as well.

Last week, he specifically sought to engage the opposition party and its leaders. He said:

> We want to work hand in hand with you. What we say and do must match.

Since his inauguration, he has also restored the internet service all across the country, and he has released 11 high-profile dissidents. This is what we need to be encouraging, not delegitimizing his authority with a heavy handed resolution. After his first week in office, the first week in office, they passed this resolution—this hateful resolution over at the House.

He is also the youngest head of state in all of Africa. Abiy is just 41 years old. He shows an optimistic and engaged future for Ethiopia—a country where 70 percent of the population is less than 35 years old. He deserves a chance to enact the democratic reforms he called for during his inaugural address, before being slapped with a condemnation of his government by a House of Representatives resolution.

They have quite an opportunity. Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing economies in the region, and it has made great strides in lowering the poverty rate. But the resolution that passed last week wasn't about this. They didn't talk about everything that I just articulated.

Ethiopia is also an important partner for us in promoting regional peace and security. We have all recently seen how Islamic terrorists are pushing from the Middle East and regrouping and establishing themselves across Africa. This is the thing that he has inherited. That is what he is in right now.

Ethiopia has been an important partner for the United States in combating the spread of terrorism from Somalia and al-Qaida. He is our closest partner in this effort.

As terrorism grows through Djibouti and the Horn of Africa into northeastern Africa, this is a threat to global security. Ethiopia has been a critical partner for the United States in combating that spread of terrorism.

Ethiopia is the top African contributor to U.N. peacekeeping troops and supplies about 8 percent of the global peacekeeping force. It is not the second or among the first. He was No. 1—the first one to be a contributor to the U.N. peacekeeping effort. Those are contributions they have made. Other countries have not done that, but they have.

More than that, Ethiopia's professional and capable military has also been a positive force in regional stability. When we had problems in parts of Africa—and Somalia comes to mind right now—when we call upon them to send troops, they are the first ones who respond, and they are the ones who send the most of their capable troops.

Ethiopia was a regional stabilizer during the crisis with Sudan and South Sudan. I think we all remember when Sudan was one unified country, and they had not always gotten along with South Sudan. South Sudan had been trying to get their independence for years and years, and, finally, they were successful, and right after that, it looked like it wasn't going to work.

But the resolution last week didn't consider any of the progress Ethiopia has made and the leadership they have provided.

Beyond just the government, more good things are happening in Ethiopia than I have ever seen. The people are not just like other people. There is not time, but I could give so many examples. I will single out just one family

who is really typical of what is going on in Ethiopia.

We have longtime friends there—Marta Gabre-Tsadick and her husband Demeke Tekle-Wold. I will refer to them as Marta and Demeke. They founded an organization called Project Mercy. This is kind of interesting. This wasn't government. This is what they have done and are trying to do in their country.

It is kind of interesting because Marta, as a very young girl, went to work for Haile Selassie. We all know Haile Selassie and what a hero he was before the communists came in in 1974 and murdered him and took over the country. Marta actually had worked for him at one time.

They received political asylum in the United States in the early 1970s, after the communist takeover in Ethiopia, only to return to the country to care for, as they say, the ''least of these.'' That is what they have been doing.

Marta wrote a book that should be required reading so people would know the sacrifices that people make to escape communism. The name of her book is ''Sheltered by the King.''

In fact, if any of you want a copy of it, I will give it to you.

It tells the story about the communist takeover when Haile Selassie was murdered. It was about their escape from the communists.

Throughout the years, I have partnered with Marta and Demeke on several occasions. In 2008, I worked with the USAID. At that time, we had a guy, who, unfortunately, wasn't able stay there very long. He was head of the USAID. At that time, they prioritized the shipment of 43 containers of Atmit. This is during the time of starvation. Amit is a nutritional supplement that was sent to young children, to those in the most severe stages of starvation.

Ethiopia was hit especially hard in the global economic crisis, and these containers equaled 600 tons of food to feed 27,000 severely malnourished children.

The story of Marta and Demeke is kind of interesting because they started out in Addis, the capital. They started out in a small house, getting three or four young men—boys—uneducated and taught them the Scriptures, taught them how to read and write, taught them all of these things, and then how to put together an economy and get these people so that they can go out on their own. They were successful.

That grew from 3 people to 6 people to 100 people. Then they went down to a part of Africa, a part of Ethiopia, that is really interesting. It is called Yetabon. Yetabon is interesting because that is an area where there wasn't any civilization. It was in the bush, on the side of a mountain.

I went down to Yetabon to see. This is some time ago. I was thrilled that Raj Shah, the Administrator of USAID, accepted my invitation to go down there to see Yetabon and to see what they have done down there. When you stopped and looked in that remote area, with the two of them alone, it is not just a matter of 10, 12, or 100 kids, but 1,700 kids were all lined up, K through 12, smiling with big smiles. Their lives had been changed, and all of that took place down there.

I remember that there was a terrible storm down there as we were leaving, and it was all muddy. I told Raj: Anyone under age 70, get out and push. I was the only one exempted, of course. Anyway, he saw the significance of the resource of the Ethiopian people and the progress the country had made in furthering democracy and stabilizing the region.

USAID is now headed up by another person who loves Africa, Mark Green. I remember Mark Green. He used to be the Ambassador to Tanzania. He is a close friend of mine. I actually served with him at one time back at the House.

Raj recognized the genius of the Ethiopian people. We are privileged to deliver a another program they put together, where they would crossbreed cows and start dairy farms in the area close to Addis. It has been a very successful program. Keep in mind that this is all as a result of one family.

I could give examples of this all over the country in Ethiopia. The technical assistance and training to improve the products that they have were done all by one family. All that was largely from Demeke.

There is another person who is set aside from other countries in Africa, and that is a doctor named Hamlin. She actually started the Hamlin Fistula Hospital. Fistula is a disease that people who are pregnant could have. It is fatal in many cases. It is very unique to that part of Africa. So they have an organization working alongside the Ethiopian Government to provide sustainable solutions to the Hamlin Fistula Hospital. It has been a haven for the care of women.

All of this one person started. This is the character of the people. They started treating women in Ethiopia's busy capital city of Addis since 1959. It has now grown to an additional five regional hospitals, a midwifery college, and a rehabilitation center for long-term patients.

I and my wife Kay visited the hospital along with Senator ENZI's wife, Diana, and Senator BOOZMAN's wife, Cathy. We saw the miracle that is taking place there—all because of one woman. It is typical of the people you find in Ethiopia.

They saw the impact that the hospital is making to the lives of women throughout the country to be able to deliver their baby safely and be treated with dignity for childbirth injuries.

So much of this development and progress is due to the emergence of past and present African leaders such as the recently sworn in Prime Minister, Dr. Abiy Ahmed, who are investing in the lives of their people, and the realization by the United States of the strategic importance to Africa.

They are important. They have joined us in every effort—every military effort—that we have had, more than any other country. None of that was considered by the House last week when they passed this shortsighted resolution.

I tried to work with key sponsors of the resolution to make needed changes to reflect the fact of Ethiopia's progress, but my efforts were unsuccessful. They wouldn't listen to me. I still can't figure out why it is that a handful of people who probably have never, ever been to Ethiopia were doing this to that country. The resolution made a lot of claims that said that ''democratic space in Ethiopia has steadily diminished since the general elections of 2005'' and that the ruling party ''claimed 100 percent of the parliamentary seats'' in the 2015 elections—continued insults to our closest friends in Africa. But the democratic space in Ethiopia has never been more vibrant, as the numbers speak for themselves. There were more opposition candidates in the 2015 election than there have ever been in any election in the history of Ethiopia.

In 2015, the African Union observers—they were the ones who were observing the election, and they concluded that the elections had been free, peaceful, and credible and had provided an opportunity for the Ethiopian people to express their choices at the polls. Overall, the AU observers offered conclusions and recommendations to the government, the electoral board, the political parties, and to the media to strengthen that process, and that has been successful.

The resolution inaccurately stated that the ruling party claimed to have won 100 percent of the parliamentary seats. That is not true at all. There is no truth at all in that. In fact, that is not a ruling party. The EPRDF is not one party; it is a coalition of four major political parties with proportional representation from four regions; namely, from Oromia, Amhara, and some of the other southern nations.

The resolution also claimed that peaceful protests were often hijacked by violent events.

Last year, there were protests and demonstrations in part of Oromia and Amhara, in that region, and it did grow violent.

Ethiopia has a duty to ensure law and order like any other country, and that is exactly what they did. They openly acknowledged that people have legitimate grievances and expressed their willingness to address those. They are making strides. The second National Human Rights Action Plan—the current ruling party has embarked on a dialogue with 222 opposition parties. The United States should allow this dialogue to continue free of interference.

This resolution wasn't new. The House of Representatives did this in 2007 also. By the way, they also did this by voice vote then because no one wanted to be tied to something that they had to vote on without really knowing what it was all about. So they did it in 2007. I don't think the outcome of that was ever discussed, so I am going to tell the story now.

The 2007 resolution claimed that its purpose was to ''encourage and facilitate the consolidation of peace and security in Ethiopia,'' but in reality, it focused only on the shortcomings while blatantly ignoring the unprecedented progress the country had made.

I went to Ethiopia 3 weeks after the House voted in 2007. The resolution was reported widely for weeks in the Ethiopian press as the United States sharply criticizing Ethiopians, the same as they did last week. It caused great confusion and anger with the Ethiopian people, who were emerging from Communist rule. You could argue that at the time this happened, the people were protesting the administration under Prime Minister Meles. Probably they were saying that they prefer the Communists because this is something he was responsible for changing at that time.

So they had that resolution. It was reported that it hurt them and hurt their reputation around the world, caused great confusion and anger with the Ethiopian people, who were emerging from a Communist rule and working with democracy.

I met with Prime Minister Meles on that trip, and he said that the House vote really hurt our relationship with Ethiopia. I remember exactly what he said to me. He said: Our survival depends on democratization.

He was also open and honest about the problems they had in the 2005 election. He acknowledged the riots and that better training could have prevented the deaths of some seven policemen. That is not the story we hear. We hear about hundreds of people dying, but that is simply not the case.

Prime Minister Meles also noted that they were being singled out for criticism and sanctions when Eritrea—an autocratic government that openly gave refuge to terrorists—faced no such condemnation. He stated that he felt insulted by the bill, as well he should have.

When I was visiting with Azeb, Meles's wife—by the way, Azeb and Meles fought together in the feud that took over the country from communism, in the bush. When she asked me how the United States could attack our friends in this way, I didn't have an answer for that. Remember, we are friends. Ethiopia has been a partner on the global War on Terror and has contributed troops to peacekeeping missions and supports regional security efforts.

We also met with a group of Ethiopian citizens in Addis who had returned to Ethiopia to rebuild the nation. They had returned in the mid-2000s because it was the first time they had confidence in the government to return. They were very frustrated and disappointed by the resolution.

Today I am sure that Prime Minister Abiy and the Ethiopian people are also confused and frustrated by this resolution. I want to speak now to our friends in Ethiopia who may be feeling abandoned by the United States and questioning our partnership and friendship in such a critical part of the world.

This resolution, while offensive to you, does not change your friendship with the United States.

I want to repeat that. I want to make sure people know that the resolution, while it is offensive to you, doesn't change your friendship with the United States.

We have a long history of economic and military cooperation that will continue, and Ethiopia is only gaining momentum as a nation. This is apparent when you look at Ethiopia's economy, their military, and the U.S.-Ethiopia trade relationship that they are now building with our country. Ethiopia ranks among the fastest growing economies in the world. This is significant: Despite the recent drought, the IMF estimates that Ethiopia will have an average GDP growth rate of 7.4 percent from 2017 to 2020.

This is what I would have said yesterday, but something happened yesterday that I didn't know was going to happen. Yesterday, in the latest World Economic Outlook, the IMF announced that Ghana had lost its position as the fastest growing economy in Africa, and they lost it to Ethiopia. Ethiopia now has the fastest growth—8.5 percent. We in the United States would love to have an 8.5-percent economic growth rate.

Total U.S. direct investment, including partnerships, stands at more than $567 million, with more than $65 million originating solely from the United States.

The United States has a positive trade balance with Ethiopia, particularly in manufacturing, energy, and agricultural processing.

Over the past 70 years, Ethiopian Airlines has purchased more than 100 U.S.-origin aircraft.

In 2016 alone, Ethiopia utilized over $149 million worth of U.S. agricultural products, including wheat, coffee, and oil seeds.

The United States continues to provide assistance to support Ethiopia's agricultural development. Through the USDA, the 3-year, $13 million Food for Progress Program—known as the FEED project—helps to improve yields of milk, meat, eggs, and other products by increasing the availability and quality of livestock feed.

The U.S. International Military Education and Training Program—by the way, that is called IMET—the IMET Program was put together many years ago so that when our troops go into other areas, they mingle with the troops there, and then we invite the troops from the various countries to come into the United States and get their training here. We found out that once the training takes place in this country, we have their allegiance for the rest of the time they are there. They have been working to train future leaders here in the United States and create a rapport between the United States and the Ethiopian military. They had over 600 members from 2010 to 2015—one of our most successful IMET programs, working military to military.

Along with their own successes, Ethiopia has established itself as a world player. Ethiopia and the United States belong to a number of the same organizations, including the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. The nation is an observer to the World Trade Organization and is currently serving on the United Nations Security Council as a nonpermanent member.

So I say to my colleagues in the Senate, I would like to remind you that with the passing of resolution 128, we are repeating the past. That is exactly what they did a few years ago. That doesn't mean we have to do it again in the future. Ethiopia is a key friend, and Prime Minister Abiy—just keep in mind, here is a guy who is the highest educated Prime Minister we think in the entire history of the entire continent of Africa. He deserves a chance for a strong start.

I will continue to fight for that strong friendship in Congress, and I urge the United States to give them the chance they have rightly earned. Clearly, resolution 128 does not reflect America's relationship with Ethiopia, one of our most valued allies in all of Africa.

''Are you listening?'' I asked my brother. Prime Minister Abiy, America is with you. America is with you.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING BARBARA BUSH

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, tonight I want to talk about the passing of an extraordinary woman—a woman who captured the hearts of Americans across every spectrum.

Barbara Bush was one of the most popular people in America—and for good reason. One of only two women in the history of our country to be both the First Lady of the United States and also the mother of a President, she consistently used those platforms that, as she would say, God graced her with, for good causes.

There are many stories, but one I would like to recount was shortly after President Bush's election. She went to an AIDS hospice here in Washington, DC. This was a time when the AIDS epidemic was a huge crisis. Frankly, there was a stigma attached to it and a lot of nervousness about the disease.

Barbara Bush picked up a baby with AIDS and cradled that baby. She hugged and kissed kids with AIDS. The message was very clear: There should be no stigma. We have nothing to fear. It is time for us to embrace these people. Her quote that day was everlasting: ''There is a need for compassion.'' She spoke to the heart.

She also used the platform she had to empower people through literacy. This was one of her great causes. She believed the world would be a much better place if everyone could read, write, and comprehend, and the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy continues to do amazing work. She has touched the lives of so many—so many young people, so many adults—and brought them into a new world through literacy.

She accomplished a lot more through her distinguished life. She was dignified, straightforward, witty, and well-intentioned. She had a habit of speaking her mind freely, and sometimes that got her in a little bit of trouble, but, frankly, when she did that, almost all of us nodded our heads in agreement.

Interestingly, her Secret Service code name was ''Tranquility.'' For anyone who knew her personally, that might have seemed to be an odd code name. Probably she chose that code name herself, by the way. She wasn't always tranquil. In fact, she was sometimes feisty—famously so.

One story that I think shows some of her feistiness was when she was having dinner one night with the President of the United States—43, who happened to be her son—and in front of many others, including staff, she commented critically on his table manners, which, of course, she loved, and so did he.

The night before she left us, that feistiness was on display when Barbara Bush, instead of asking for pain medication, asked for a glass of bourbon and, with a smile, took a sip.

I think the name ''Tranquility'' was also fitting for her. It was fitting for her because she was a calming influence. She made things more tranquil. I saw that firsthand at the White House, where she made life easier for everybody.

I had the pleasure of first getting to know her when I was doing volunteer advanced work for her husband, then-Vice President Bush. I traveled overseas with them, traveled around the country some with them, and got to see the calming influence she had on everyone around her.

Later, when I was in the counsel's office at the White House, I got to see how she made everybody feel more comfortable—including me, as a young White House staffer—encouraging me, knowing people, saying hello to them, talking to them, ensuring that the morale was good.

Tranquility. It was helpful then, and it was helpful through her life, as she was there as the rock, as the adult.

My wife Jane and I had recently become married. We had a child when I worked at the White House. Barbara Bush couldn't have been more gracious. She was a dear friend ever since. In fact, a few years later, when I first ran for public office—I ran for the U.S. House of Representatives in Cincinnati, OH, the Second Congressional District of Ohio—she came to campaign for me. This was early in 1993. Recall that, in 1992, George H.W. Bush—41—had lost his reelection.

We did a political event in Cincinnati. I took her to Skyline Chili, which is a famous place in my hometown and all around Southwest Ohio. Although Skyline Chili and Cincinnati chili is an acquired taste, she at least acted like she really enjoyed it. She wore the bib, and people loved it. Maybe most importantly for me, while she was there, she cut a radio ad for me. In that radio ad, she said: ''I always enjoy having Skyline Chili with ROB PORTMAN when I'm in Cincinnati.'' She said some other things that were kind. Frankly, as I look back on that race—there were 10 people in the primary. My name identification was about 6 percent, half of whom thought I was somebody else with a similar name. I think that radio ad played a huge role in my first election, my ability to be here today and to serve the people of Ohio. Barbara Bush was an important reason I won.

In that election, by the way, I had stuck with George H.W. Bush, who had just lost his reelection, when others were being critical, because I had so much respect for him and so much respect for her. Frankly, I think her popularity was an important reason I was able to win.

In recent years, I made a habit of making a pilgrimage to Maine every summer to see them, sometimes going to Houston during the winter as well, but going to Maine has been a wonderful way to connect with them. I have gone with my daughter. I have gone with my wife Jane a few times. I sit with them. President Bush loves to give advice still, and I love to get it.

Barbara Bush loved the political gossip, and we loved to talk about people and things and what was going on in Washington. She was curious, engaged, sharp, and up to speed.

She loved George H.W. Bush so deeply. She sometimes called him ''FLFW,'' former leader of the free world. Again, her wit was on display everywhere she was.

I remember being with them last summer on the porch. She always insisted on eating lunch outside. The waves were coming in on the Maine coast and the Sun was reflecting on the waves. Family was always around. That is when she was happiest.

I will certainly miss those moments we shared, the encouragement, and the very candid advice that she was never hesitant to offer, but as we mourn the loss of this authentic and admired American, we should all find comfort in remembering the way she lived and the incredible legacy she leaves.

She never ran for political office herself, but in a way she represented all of us, and I think she represented the best in all of us. I think that is one reason she was so popular. She showed us how to handle the spotlight and responsibility with grace, with dignity, and with the incredible way that she, again, was able to bring tranquility wherever she was.

No wife, no mother, no grandmother was more devoted to her family. She had unconditional love for her children, including the 43rd President of the United States, with whom she had a great relationship. Her true partnership with George H.W. Bush, in service to the country, all the way from the time he was an 18-year-old Navy pilot through his career as President and after is an inspiration, that unconditional love and that partnership—an inspiration certainly to me and to Jane as a role model but an inspiration to all of us as Americans.

I know I speak for all of my colleagues in the United States Senate as we pay tribute to her and also send our condolences to the entire Bush family.

Barbara Bush is now in a better place. I can imagine her smiling, surrounded by family, including her beloved daughter, Robin, whom she lost as a child. She is on a coast somewhere, dignified, witty, and feisty, all at once, and she is earning that code name ''Tranquility.''

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, and pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 474, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m., Thursday, April 19, and does so as a further mark of respect for the late John Melcher, former Senator from Montana.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:35 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 19, 2018, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate April 18, 2018:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

CARLOS G. MUNIZ, OF FLORIDA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PROPOSING A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this proposal to amend the U.S. Constitution. This amendment, if ratified, would likely result in devastating cuts to programs like Social Security and Medicare that would harm Oregonians and families around the country. H.J. Res. 2, the Balanced Budget Amendment, would require the federal government to cut any spending that is not fully offset by incoming revenue, including spending on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. I agree that Congress must act in a fiscally responsible manner, and we owe it to our children and grandchildren to not leave them with a country that has a significant debt burden. But there are many ways to be fiscally responsible, including finding smarter, better ways to provide important services and by making investments that actually grow the economy.

It is important to note that the majority is bringing this measure to the floor for a vote now, not long after the passage of their partisan tax bill that will further exacerbate income inequality and explode our deficit by about $1.9 trillion dollars. Our seniors deserve better than having their Social Security benefits-which they have earned over a lifetime of hard work-jeopardized under the guise of fiscal responsibility. If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are serious about reining in federal spending, we should look to commonsense reforms, not across-the-board measures that put Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid at risk.

REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2018

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of Holocaust Remembrance Week to honor the millions of lives lost during this horrific period in history.

Fueled by hatred, Nazis brutally imprisoned and murdered more than 6 million Jewish men, women, and children—as well as hundreds of thousands of other victims—resulting in the largest systematic genocide the world has ever witnessed.

Listening to the heart wrenching stories of Holocaust survivors should solidify our commitment to stop this from ever happening again.

I am troubled by a recent study which found that an alarming 66 percent of Americans between the ages of 18 and 34 years old cannot explain the significance of Auschwitz, the concentration camp where Nazis killed 1.1 million people during World War II.

To me, this is a clear sign that now—more than ever—it is vital to educate our younger generations and continue to condemn and denounce the actions of the Nazi regime.

As the years pass, there are fewer brave survivors left to tell their stories, and, unfortunately, there are still acts of genocide occurring around the world.

The United States should do everything in its power to help prevent these atrocious acts from occurring, which is why I am proud to cosponsor the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act.

This legislation strengthens the U.S. government's ability to prevent and respond to genocide, war crimes, and other crimes against humanity.

The Nazis used fear and hatred to attempt the elimination of an entire population of people. Without intervention, they may have succeeded.

As Elie Wiesel, a courageous Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate, said, "Because I remember, I despair. Because I remember, I have the duty to reject despair."

It is our moral responsibility as the world's most powerful nation to never forget and to stand up against violence, racism, and genocide across the globe.

As we honor Holocaust Remembrance Week, let this be a reminder of our responsibility to educate younger generations.

Today, I stand with my colleagues to honor, pray for, and remember the victims of the Holocaust. May we recognize and improve upon mistakes in our past, so we are not condemned to repeat history in the future.

REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2018

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Holocaust Remembrance Week and the 75th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

The Holocaust was the systematic persecution of six million Jews by the Nazi regime. This week, we remember the millions of people who suffered from these crimes. This year is also the 75th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, when the remaining imprisoned Jews rose up against the Nazi SS.

I am dedicated to honoring the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust. That is why funding of the Holocaust Memorial Museum is essential. It is also imperative to provide assistance to those who survived the Holocaust, which is why I support funding for the Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program.

I encourage my fellow Members of Congress to join me in remembering the six million people who died in the Holocaust. With our continued efforts to fund the Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program, we may continue to honor the legacy of those who perished.

RECOGNIZING LONNIE BELL

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lonnie Bell, a Montanan who shared his warmth, wit, and talents with hundreds of thousands over his seven decades as a country music disc jockey.

Bell, a Navy veteran with 20 years of service, began entertaining audiences while stationed in Oahu in 1953. For the next 30 years, he combined genuine love for country music with his authentic and unpretentious broadcast style in stations around the country. Bell made Montana his permanent home in 1964.

In 1985, Bell began his second radio career, hosting a popular Sunday country music program until last month. In March, the Country Music Disc Jockey Hall of Famer signed off the air with his final broadcast from Billings.

Along the way, Bell, an accomplished musician, helped country music legends Charlie Pride and Loretta Lynn find their way to stardom.

It is my honor to recognize Lonnie Bell for his countless contributions to country music and to our Montana way of life.

CONGRATULATING MS. SHERI CAINE ON RECEIVING THE 2018 NORTHRUP GRUMMAN FOUNDATION EXCELLENCE IN ENGINEERING EDUCATION AWARD

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Sheri Caine, a teacher at Harold L. Richards High School in Oak Lawn, Illinois, for receiving this year's Northrop Grumman Foundation Excellence in Engineering Education award. The National Science Teachers Association presented Ms. Caine with the award in March at their National Conference on Science Education. As an engineer, a former teacher, and strong proponent of STEM education, I am especially proud to recognize this tremendous accomplishment.

For the last 10 years, Ms. Caine has been teaching all levels of chemistry and physics at Richards High School. Throughout her teaching career, she has earned a reputation for engaging students in the classroom and urging them to think about science both theoretically and as a tool to solve real world problems. In the lesson plan she created to meet

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the award criteria, students design a musical instrument, predict the frequency the instrument will play, and then measure the actual frequency using an iPad. Sheri Caine's impact on her students goes beyond the classroom with her dedication to after-school tutoring and the school's volleyball program.

Ms. Caine's background in research has undoubtedly contributed to her success in the classroom. While she is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Global STEM Education at Texas Tech University, she spent her previous summers working at Argonne National Laboratory. After being diagnosed with thyroid cancer, Ms. Caine contributed to the advancement of cancer treatment by agreeing to undergo a minimally invasive procedure known as transoral thyroidectomy. After learning that the University of Chicago was looking to be the first pioneer of this treatment in the Midwest, Ms. Caine eagerly volunteered. Her bravery and commitment to science proved successful as she is now cancer free.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Sheri Caine on this award and on the accolades she has received throughout her career. Richards High School is fortunate to have such an exceptional teacher on staff and I wish her the best as she continues teaching and inspiring students.

CONGRATULATING J. GARY PENNETT UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE MISSILE DEFENSE AGENCY

HON. TULSI GABBARD

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, from the very first day at the U.S. Air Force Academy and throughout one's service in the U.S. Air Force, you learn about how to live the Air Force values: integrity first, service before self, and strive for excellence. J. Gary Pennett did his best to live these values, and has gone above and beyond in answering the call to serve throughout his more than four decades of military and public service.

Throughout his life, J. Gary Pennett has served in the United States Air Force, in the Department of Defense, and in his current role at the Missile Defense Agency. As Director of Operations at the Missile Defense Agency, Pennett utilized his people-first approach as the chief architect of recruiting, hiring a diverse, professional, and highly-skilled workforce. Even in the face of extreme budget uncertainty, government furloughs, shutdowns, and declining budgets, Pennett has found opportunity and success in the most trying circumstances—ensuring that his Agency delivers on its promise to defend our nation.

I thank Mr. J. Gary Pennett for his service to the people of Hawai'i and our country, and congratulate him as he closes this chapter in his career of service performed to the highest standards. We wish him well as he begins the next. Aloha.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RYAN A. COSTELLO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on April 16, 2018, I missed two recorded votes on the House floor due to train travel delays. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call 140, and yea on Roll Call 141.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL J. ASELAGE, FORT LORAMIE COMMUNITY FIRE COMPANY

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commend to the House the memory of Firefighter Michael J. Aselage of the Fort Loramie Community Fire Company, who was killed in the line of duty on April 2, 1975.

Michael Aselage was born in 1950, the son of Bernard and Elizabeth Aselage. Upon graduating from Fort Loramie High School, he entered the United States Coast Guard, where he served for four years. In late 1974, following in the footsteps of his father, he joined the Fort Loramie Community Fire Company.

On April 2, 1975, Michael noticed a downed electric pole and wire lying across a portion of Ohio State Route 705. He immediately went to a nearby house to call the Shelby County Sheriff's Office for assistance. He then went back to the site of the downed wire to direct traffic around the hazard. He was killed when the door of his vehicle came into contact with the wire.

This Sunday, a portion of State Route 705 in Shelby County will be renamed and dedicated in Michael's honor. On behalf of the people of Ohio's Fourth Congressional District, I offer my condolences to the family and friends of Michael J. Aselage as they gather to celebrate his selfless service. I am grateful to the members of the Fort Loramie Community Fire Company for pursuing this honor in tribute to their fallen comrade.

KATIE GROKE ELLIS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Katie Groke Ellis for receiving the 2017 Arvada Young Professional Leadership Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Each year the Arvada Chamber recognizes Arvada's finest men and women for their involvement and dedication to the community. Katie Groke Ellis is being recognized for her innovation, entrepreneurship, professional accomplishments and community leadership. In 2017, Katie led the charge on the Apex Park and Recreation District rebranding all while maintaining her other professional responsibilities. Katie is an exemplary leader and always willing to step up and help to ensure the Arvada community thrives.

Congratulations to Katie Groke Ellis for this well-deserved award and thank you for your contribution to our community.

CONGRATULATING CALEB KLEMAN

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exemplary student from the 1st District of Iowa. I am pleased to announce that Caleb Kleman of Cedar Rapids, Iowa has been accepted to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Mr. Kleman is an outstanding student—ranking in the top 1 percent of Iowa Assessments each year of his high school career. In addition to awards such as Academic Numerals, Academic Letter, and Academic Certificate, he is recognized as an AP Scholar with distinction in his third year. Mr. Kleman's academic recognition is well deserved as he ranks 5th of 309 students in his class with a weighted GPA of 4.492 while enrolling in over ten advanced placement courses.

Further developing his leadership skills, Mr. Kleman attained the position Vice President of the National Honor Society, Section Leader of Marching Band, and First Chair of both Jazz Band and Concert Band. His participation in the band as a first chair trumpet player for four years led to performances at All-State competitions. Serving as Captain of the Cross Country team, he developed skills identifying potential conflicts, problem solving, and team building.

I have full confidence in Mr. Kleman's ability to successfully pursue a degree in engineering while serving as a vital asset to the U.S. Navy.

TRIBUTE TO DARLENE AND ED LAUGHLIN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Darlene and Ed Laughlin of Imogene, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on February 15, 2018.

Darlene and Ed's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

RECOGNIZING ALLEN JOHNSON AND HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Allen Johnson for his heroism in receiving the Purple Heart during the Korean War. Allen Johnson joined the Army in January of 1951, and soon found himself fighting for our country on the battlefields of the Korean War. On November 24, 1951, Mr. Johnson was wounded in battle. Though earning the Purple Heart, he never received it until just this year.

Allen Johnson went on to serve in the National Guard and retired with the rank of Captain. Like so many of his generation, Mr. Johnson never sought fanfare or special recognition for his service. He and his wife, Mardell, were married 62 years, and raised ten children. Mr. Johnson served his community as a member of the VFW and American Legion.

Allen Johnson passed away last October, but he will remain an inspiration to all Montanans. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the life and service of Allen Johnson.

RECOGNIZING WILDWOOD MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Wildwood Middle High School and their many accomplishments during the 2017–2018 school year.

Congratulations to the girls and boys basketball teams on winning the Class 1A state championship. This is the second consecutive state title for the girls basketball team and the first state title since 1953 for the boys basketball. I am happy to recognize the contribution of the coaches and players to this historic season. Principal and girls basketball coach Richard Hampton and boys basketball coach Von Moreland were both named Class 1A Coach of the Year. Kari Niblack and Darion Wilson were named Class 1A Player of the Year.

Congratulations to the Wildcats football team on an undefeated season. Coach McKinley Rolle was named Class 1A Coach of the Year. Coach Rolle led the team to their first undefeated season since 1985.

Congratulations to Kylie Ondriezek on being named Sumter County Teacher of the Year. Ms. Ondriezek is a graduate of Wildwood Middle High School and returned to teach English.

Wildwood Middle High School's dedication to quality education and creating opportunities for success is evident from these recognitions. I am pleased to recognize Wildwood Middle High School and congratulate the students, teachers, and administrators for their hard work and outstanding accomplishments. May their example inspire many to follow in their footsteps.

CONGRATULATING DEE KOCH ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a Fort Bend County treasure, Dee Koch on her retirement.

Dee is retiring from her position as the George Foundation Director of Community Engagement. She is an icon in my home county of Fort Bend, where she has established two community engagement programs; Youth-in-Philanthropy and the Leadership Excellence Program. Between these programs and her work at the George Foundation, she has overseen grants totaling $135 million. Over the years, Dee has also been instrumental in numerous community projects including the George Memorial Library, Access Health, the University of Houston Sugar Land, Memorial Hermann, the Fort Bend County Museum and the Mamie George Community Center. She has been a tireless advocate for youth and families in need in our community. I am proud to know her and call her a friend.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Dee Koch on her retirement. I thank her for her dedication to making Fort Bend County a better place to live and raise a family.

HONORING MS. LORENA CAMP COLLINS

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lorena Camp Collins for her dedication to her community's health and well-being.

For 55 years, Ms. Collins has spent her spare time volunteering at the Northeast Georgia Medical Center, giving more than 24,000 hours of her life to supporting patients, family members, visitors, and medical staff.

When holidays approached, she never hesitated to fill in for fellow volunteers and staff, allowing them to spend time with their families.

In 2004, Ms. Collins earned the Marjorie Covington Smith Auxilian of the Year title, and Governor Deal honored her for 50 years of service in 2013. She never allowed such praise to distract her, and she has continued to invest her energy in the medical center.

I am proud to honor Ms. Lorena Collins for her decades of selfless sacrifice.

IN RECOGNITION OF LAHC'S 30 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Leaders Advancing and Helping Communities (LAHC) as they celebrate their 30th Annual Awards Gala. Their efforts enrich the lives of countless Michigan residents through their programming.

LAHC was founded in 1982 as an athletic organization in Dearborn, Michigan with the mission of providing community members with a way to connect with neighbors and exercise. As Dearborn's Arab American population grew through the 1980s and 1990s, LAHC realized its potential and expanded to serve the needs of the fast-growing community. The organization's leaders made the decision to shift from a health-centered organization to one that focused on the Dearborn community and initiatives that spread awareness of Arab culture. After receiving continuous feedback from community members, LAHC realized the importance of promoting education and now has a rich network of local sponsors and scholarships that aid students throughout their educational journey while simultaneously supporting local medical initiatives.

As LAHC grew in influence and size, the organization expanded its programming to focus on three main tenets: education, public health and human services. The organization has provided 1,200 students over $1.3 million in educational scholarships as well as local mentors for graduating seniors. LAHC also works closely with schools in southeastern Michigan to empower children to take control of their own health by offering cooking and fitness classes in local schools. Over the years, LAHC has grown in size and influence due to the positive impact it has made on southeast Michigan residents. It is proud to offer food assistance, clothing and temporary shelter, as well as translation services to community members. Leaders Advancing and Healing Communities has bettered southeast Michigan through its members' empathetic and dedicated leadership. We are grateful for their 30 years of service and look forward to their public service in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Leaders Advancing and Helping Communities as they celebrate 30 years of service to our southeast Michigan community. Their work in our local community has had a tremendous impact and helped improve the lives of countless Michigan residents.

LUKAS KNIGHT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lukas Knight for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Lukas Knight is a student at Warren Tech North and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lukas Knight is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lukas Knight for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO DELORES AND WESLEY HART

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Delores and Wesley Hart of Shenandoah, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on February 16, 2018.

Delores and Wesley's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 70th Anniversary of the Independence of the State of Israel. I would also like to salute the Consulate General of Israel in New York for decades of work towards strengthening the bond between New York and Israel.

For 70 years, Israel has served as a place of refuge for millions of Jewish people around the world. Despite facing tremendous adversity at every turn, Israel has become a vibrant and inclusive democracy.

As the home of the largest Jewish population outside Tel Aviv, I know the ties between New York and Israel are particularly deep. Israel is one of our leading partners, and will continue to be in the decades to come.

In the words of President John F. Kennedy: ''Israel can neither be broken by adversity nor demoralized by success. It carries the shield of democracy and it honors the sword of freedom.''

I would also like to send my deepest gratitude to everyone that has tirelessly worked to build bridges between Israel and the United States. Thanks to their heroic efforts, the bonds between America and Israel are stronger than ever.

CONGRESS OF FUTURE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERS

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 3 high school students who were chosen by the National Academy of Future Scientists and Technologists to represent the State of Colorado as Delegates at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. The students are Taylor Barker, Lale Edil, and Brielle Williams.

The Congress is an honors-only program for top students in our country who aspire to work in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) fields These students are nominated by their teachers or the Academy based on their leadership ability, academic achievement, and dedication. This program is designed to inspire young people to go into STEM fields and provides a path, plan, and mentoring resources to help them reach their dreams. During the Congress, the students will have the chance to learn from luminaries of the STEM field including top scientific university deans, leaders from government and the private sector, and even Nobel laureates.

These students' acceptance to this prestigious program is an incredible feat, and it is my honor to rise today and recognize the outstanding accomplishment of this future leader Our nation greatly benefits from the achievements of scientists and technologists, and it is important that we continue to inspire younger generations to pursue careers in the STEM fields.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my congratulations to these students and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MS. DIANE MCCORD

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound respect to recognize and celebrate the career of Ms. Diane McCord on the occasion of her retirement. Ms. McCord has retired from the Town of Esopus, New York after forty dedicated years of service.

For the past four decades, Ms. McCord has served Esopus in many different capacities as Town Clerk, Town Councilperson, and Town Supervisor, making herself a cornerstone of the community. Ms. McCord's many years of dedication to the town has improved the quality of life of her friends and neighbors, and as the President of the Senior Citizens organization, has enhanced the lives of many seniors.

I respect the commitment of those distinct individuals who have tirelessly devoted themselves to their community. Ms. McCord's legacy of hard work and commitment to the Town of Esopus is a source of inspiration, instilling the values of determination, conviction, and loyalty in her community.

Mrs. McCord has been an esteemed leader, and I thank her for her commitment to her community. I wish her every happiness as she embarks on this new chapter.

NICHOLAS KULHANEK

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Nicholas Kulhanek for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Nicholas Kulhanek is a student at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Nicholas Kulhanek is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Nicholas Kulhanek for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY UNION (TELACU) AND THE 35TH ANNUAL TELACU EDUCATION FOUNDATION ''BUILDING THE DREAM'' GALA

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate The East Los Angeles Community Union (TELACU), the nation's largest and oldest Community Development Corporation, on its 50th anniversary of making immeasurable contributions to traditionally disenfranchised communities, and the TELACU Education Foundation on its 35th annual ''Building the Dream'' Gala.

TELACU, which is based in my 40th Congressional District, was established as a pioneering institution in 1968, and was initially funded through federal legislation authored by Senators Robert F. Kennedy and Jacob K. Javits to revitalize urban and underserved communities throughout the United States. Over the years, TELACU has built many community assets, including industrial parks, schools, shopping centers, and municipal facilities. It has created well-paying jobs for local residents, developed quality and affordable homes for first-time homeowners, constructed beautiful residential complexes for families and senior citizens, and established responsive financial institutions to create access to capital for small business owners and hardworking families.

In 1983, TELACU created the TELACU Education Foundation in response to crisis-level dropout rates for Latino students in college. When the foundation began, it served just fifteen first-generation college students. This year, as the Foundation marks its 35th anniversary, it has built a proud legacy of helping thousands of first-generation Latinos

from underserved communities shatter barriers to academic and professional success.

Each year, TELACU's Continuum of Education—comprised of the College Readiness and College Success Programs—helps more than 2,000 TELACU Scholars as they pursue their high school, college, and graduate studies. These programs offer scholars critical financial resources and a comprehensive support system to help them achieve their educational and career goals.

Historically, approximately 98 percent of high school TELACU Scholars graduate, and almost all of them pursue higher education. More than 99 percent of college TELACU Scholars earn at least a Bachelor's degree, with an increasing number going on to seek advanced degrees.

TELACU Scholars are predominantly Latinos from some of the most economically depressed communities in Los Angeles. Our communities, our state, and our nation are all strengthened when these scholars earn high school diplomas and college degrees. With TELACU's help, these graduates become independent, well-educated professionals and role models who inspire, empower, and invest in the next generation of Latino leaders.

Today, the TELACU Scholar Alumni network stretches all over the world. They are researchers and engineers, entrepreneurs and CEOs, educators and policy-makers. They are leaders who help to maintain the United States' promise as a place where immigrants can use their own talents to pursue their dreams.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the thousands of students, families, and communities that have been helped by TELACU, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating TELACU on its 50th anniversary and the TELACU Education Foundation on its 35th anniversary. Let us also celebrate the remarkable TELACU Scholars honored at the foundation's annual ''Building the Dream'' Gala. I wish TELACU and the TELACU Education Foundation the very best as it continues its mission of helping underserved communities pursue socioeconomic equity with the help of educational opportunities, community development, and economic empowerment.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF RAYMOND NICHOLAS ADLER

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of a longtime Concord resident, Mr. Raymond Nicholas ''Nick'' Adler.

Nick Adler was born on March 29, 1946, in Evansville, Indiana, to Merrie Claire Northrup and Dr. Raymond Adler. He attended Reitz Memorial High School and worked for his grandfather's grocery store as a customer service clerk. After Nick graduated high school, he entered St. Meinrad Seminary but after much reflection, he chose a different path, earning a history degree from the University of Evansville.

Nick worked as a school teacher for a period of time, but eventually pursued a career in the medical field by enrolling at the University of Portland, where he graduated with a Nursing Science degree. During this period, he met the love of his life, Marie ''Cookie'' Garaventa and on July 27, 1974, Nick and Cookie were married. As their family grew, Nick worked as a visiting nurse for Contra Costa County and then began a 35-year career working as an office manager for Concord Disposal Service. During his tenure, Nick provided exceptional customer service and volunteered with many community organizations. He continued his passion and pursuit for higher education by earning a master's degree in national security and he enjoyed listening to many audiobooks, until his unexpected passing on March 24, 2018.

Nick is survived by his loving wife, Cookie; devoted children: Paul Adler (Lisa), David Adler (Nicole), Nicole Impagliazzo (Maron) & Angelina Kosich (Greg). Nick's greatest passion in life was entertaining his beloved eleven grandchildren: Nicholas, Alessandra, Joseph, Mark, Michael, Siena, Andrew, Christopher, Arianna, Luke, and Carly. He is also survived by his brothers: Steven Adler, Michael Adler (Jen) & John Adler (Diana); sisters: Merrie Stradtner and Jennie Evans (Don), along with numerous nieces and nephews.

His generous loving spirit, strong sense of faith, funny sense of humor, and quick wit will be missed by all who knew him.

TRIBUTE TO THE DETER MOTOR COMPANY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Deter Motor Company of Atlantic. The company opened their doors in 1964 with a plan to help people with their transportation needs.

The dealership is a full service business and offers numerous brands at its current location on Second Street in Atlantic. The company has 32 employees who assist customers in sales and service. Rod Deter, manager of the Deter Motor Company, said, ''it is a challenge to learn a new business after a career in electronics and software. Any business is about helping people no matter what the product is. I have always liked the car business, because it is a rewarding career to get people into the vehicle they want and to keep it running properly.''

Mr. Speaker, I commend Rod and his staff for their dedicated service to Atlantic. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the Deter Motor Company for their many achievements in the auto industry and in wishing Rod, his family, and employees nothing but the best.

RECOGNITION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the upcoming 70th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel and the strong bond of friendship between the United States and Israel.

The United States and the State of Israel share democratic freedoms and values, and embrace those values as the cornerstones of a vibrant democratic society. Israel has continued to stand as a stalwart of democracy and a beacon of hope for Jewish immigrants from all over the world. As an immigrant myself, I value the democratic principles which are the linchpin of our nation.

I have visited Israel and been fortunate enough to witness the special relationship the U.S. and Israel share. We share the common goals of peace, freedom, and the pursuit of security and prosperity for our citizens and for the region. It is my pleasure to help honor the State of Israel on its 70th birthday, and recognize the importance of the friendship between our two countries. I hope all my colleagues and fellow Americans will join me in taking pride in the unique contributions that our Israeli community has made to our nation.

Again, congratulations to Israel and its people all across the world on their 70th independence day.

EXHAUCE KUMESO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Exhauce Kumeso for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Exhauce Kumeso is a student at Arvada K–8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Exhauce Kumeso is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Exhauce Kumeso for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, on April 16, 2018 I was not able to participate in the 6:30 p.m.

vote series. I would like to reflect how I would have voted if I were present: ''Yea'' on Roll Call No. 140 and ''Yea'' on Roll Call No. 141.

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018 MARKUP

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we marked up H.R. 5129, the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act of 2018. I'd like to thank Chairman ROYCE, for his leadership on global food security, including in particular for his original cosponsorship of this reauthorization as well as the original Global Food Security Act, and his agreeing to move this bill to markup so rapidly.

The original Global Food Security Act promoted food security, resilience and nutrition in developing countries in keeping with U.S. national security interests. Through agriculture-led economic development, GFSA has strengthened partner countries' capacity and lessened their dependence on emergency food assistance. It has also improved efficiency among federal departments and agencies and leveraged the participation of other non-U.S. governmental partners.

I should be restated that GFSA's legacy as a bipartisan success story—legislation which solidified in law a policy that had its roots in the Bush Administration, was amplified by President Obama and is now being implemented by President Trump.

Now is the time to reauthorize this landmark legislation. H.R. 5129 builds upon the Global Food Security Act of 2016, which formally codified the Feed the Future Initiative and was signed into law with overwhelming bipartisan support in July 2016, by reauthorizing the program for two years—per the Amendment you have before you—through 2020.

Crucially, this reauthorization bill emphasizes the importance of deworming initiatives. Among the neglected tropical diseases, intestinal worms account for nearly eighty percent of NTD prevalence, affecting close to one billion people the world over. These worms undercut our nutrition interventions, and can lead to death by malnutrition or lifelong stunting. We need to combine our nutrition interventions not only with a coordinated deworming campaign, but also with Water Sanitation Health interventions that change people's behavior. WaSH training helps ensure people limit exposure to worms, such as by washing and peeling vegetables or something as simple as giving children shoes to wear so if they trod on worm-infected soil they don't get sick again. We are trying to feed the future, not feed the worms.

We will also rectify an oversight by including the Inter-American Foundation in the interagency initiative on Food Security. IAF does development right, in particular working with small holder farmers while keeping bureaucratic overhead low.

That we are here reauthorizing the Global Food Security Act is a testament to the dedication of numerous committed groups outside Congress that have made food security and nutrition their priority, from advocates to implementers—especially and including faith-based organizations who perhaps work the closest to the small-holder farmers and women who benefit in particular from our food security efforts. I thank them for their support and look forward to working with them more in this process.

I'd also like to compliment our federal agencies tasked with implementing the GFSA—in particular USAID under the leadership of Beth Dunford. The professionalism and dedication of Beth and many others is critical to the overall success of the program.

Finally, I would like to thank Rep. BETTY MCCOLLUM for again being the lead cosponsor on this critical, bipartisan legislation, as well as to thank original cosponsor Ranking Member ENGEL and the Ranking member of our subcommittee, KAREN BASS and others.

IN RECOGNITION OF ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ISRAELI-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN WASHINGTON STATE

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 70th anniversary of the independence of the state of Israel, which falls on April 19 this year.

Israel is an important friend and ally of the United States.

The United States and Israel share a unique bond based on democratic principles, common values and mutual strategic interests.

In Washington state, the Puget Sound region is home to the fastest growing Jewish community of any metropolitan area in the United States, including almost 10,000 Israelis.

On April 22, people from across Washington state will gather for a Yom Ha'atzmaut festival, celebrating 70 years of Israeli Independence.

I would like to recognize the Israeli-American community for its contributions to Washington state and honor the hope of the Jewish people.

TRIBUTE TO KATHY AND DELBERT KING

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Kathy and Delbert King of Villisca, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on February 9, 2018.

Kathy and Delbert's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 65th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and so I missed Roll Call vote number 142 regarding the ''Protecting Children from Identity Theft Act.'' Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

MIGUEL LOPEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Miguel Lopez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Miguel Lopez is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Miguel Lopez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Miguel Lopez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 16 and Tuesday, April 17, 2018, I was not present for recorded votes. I would have voted:

YES on roll call vote No. 140 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 146, as amended),

YES on roll call vote No. 141 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 167), and

YES on roll call vote No. 142 (on passage of H.R. 5192).

IN REMEMBRANCE OF BARBARA PIERCE BUSH, MATRIARCH OF A GREAT AMERICAN FAMILY, CHAMPION OF FAMILY AND LITERACY, AND TRAILBLAZER

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of Barbara Pierce Bush, the matriarch of one of America's great families, and former First Lady of the United States.

Barbara Bush was a descendant of the 14th president, the wife of the 41st and the mother of the 43rd.

Barbara Bush, the widely admired wife of one president and the fiercely loyal mother of another, was born June 8, 1925 in Rye, New York.

Barbara Bush attended a prestigious boarding school in South Carolina, where she met George Herbert Walker Bush at a school dance when she was 16 and he was a year older.

Three years later, Barbara Pierce married her sweetheart and their love lasted for 73 years, until she was departed from her beloved by death.

George and Barbara raised their family mainly in West Texas, where they settled after the end of World War II and where the future President went into the oil business.

Barbara Bush was a plainspoken woman who was instantly recognizable with her signature white hair, pearl necklaces, and earrings.

Mrs. Bush was an early supporter of the Civil Rights Movement, Planned Parenthood, and was a tireless champion of many charitable causes, especially literacy.

Barbara Bush raised more than $1 billion for literacy and cancer charities.

Barbara Bush recognized that education was the key that unlocked the door of human potential.

Literacy was Barbara Bush's special cause, which led her to establish the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy.

Shortly after the end of her husband's presidential administration, the Bush Family returned to Texas, and all Houstonians were lucky to call her and her husband, George H. W. Bush, the 41st president, our neighbors and dear friends.

Barbara Bush's books include an autobiography and one about post-White House life.

Her children's book about their dog, Millie, and her puppies written during her White House years was a best seller, as were her other books.

In 2001, when George W. Bush took office, Barbara Bush became the only woman in American history to live to see her husband and son elected president.

Barbara Bush lived a full life and will be remembered in American history, alongside only Abigail Adams, for the impact her life had on this country.

Barbara Bush is survived by her husband and their children George, Jeb, Neil, Marvin, and Dorothy.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of Barbara Pierce Bush, the Former First Lady of the United States.

RECOGNIZING CEI ON 40 YEARS OF INVESTING IN MAINE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank an organization in my District that is celebrating 40 years of supporting rural communities, economies, and families in Maine and across the nation.

In the 1970s, social activist and theology student Ron Phillips came to Maine to replicate a community-based economic development model he had seen succeed in places around the world. So began Coastal Enterprises Inc.—or CEI as it has become known—which made its first loan in 1978 to rebuild a waterfront facility that had burned down and was central to the local fishing community.

Since its humble beginnings, CEI has loaned over $1.3 billion, which in turn has leveraged an additional $2.8 billion in investment. At this point, it is hard to find an area of Maine's rural economy and community infrastructure that CEI has not touched. Adapting to the greatest needs and opportunities of our state over the last four decades, it has helped build more than 2,000 affordable housing units, invested in over 2,700 businesses, supported over 37,000 jobs, and created or preserved more than 5,800 child-care openings.

But CEI is not only a source of financing for worthy projects. It is trusted partner and leader in moving Maine forward, whether that means helping recent immigrants launch their own businesses, supporting women entrepreneurs, strengthening our state's agricultural and fisheries industries, or providing counseling to help Mainers stay in their homes.

Despite its growth, the organization has stayed true to the communities it serves and to its founding values. CEI's staff is just as comfortable conversing with CEOs and corporate financiers as they are with fishermen on the dock and farmers in the field.

I have been proud to work closely with this organization both in Washington and in Maine. I wholeheartedly thank CEI for its work, celebrate its impact on our communities over the last 40 years, and wish it many more years of success.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHERIFF DUDLEY GREENE

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Dudley Greene of McDowell County, North Carolina. I would like to express my gratitude to Sheriff Greene for 35 years of serving and protecting the citizens of Western North Carolina.

Sheriff Greene began his career with law enforcement in 1983 as a Patrol Officer at Newland Police Department in Avery County after completing law enforcement training at Mayland Community College. Sheriff Greene went on to become the Police Chief at Newland Police Department after only two years with the department. He then served as a Special Agent with North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement for two years before starting as a Detective and Chief Deputy in Avery County Sheriff's Office in 1990.

In 1994, Sheriff Greene began his career with McDowell County Sheriff's Office and has faithfully served in various positions over his tenure. Prior to becoming Sheriff, he held many important roles, including Criminal Investigation Detective, Jail Captain, and Detective Captain. As Detective Captain, he was recognized as McDowell County's Deputy of the Year by the county commissioners in 2002. Sheriff Greene has served as Sheriff of McDowell County since his election in 2008 and has successfully handled numerous cases for the people in his community.

Sheriff Greene and his wife Allyson have two children: Mary Beth who lives in New York and Julian who is serving in the United States Army. Sheriff Greene attends Grace Community Church in Marion, North Carolina.

Through his dedication to the citizens of McDowell County and wide-ranging involvement in his community, Sheriff Greene has enriched the lives of the people he has faithfully served. It is my distinct honor to recognize his outstanding work and express the best wishes of the people of Western North Carolina to Sheriff Greene on the occasion of his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO BECKY AND BRAD KRAMER

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Becky and Brad Kramer. They were honored by the Midwest Partnership with the Entrepreneur of the Year Award at their annual banquet on January 25, 2018.

The Entrepreneur of the Year Award recognizes entrepreneurial spirit and the substantial growth of a small business venture in Midwest Partnership's region. The Kramer's own Kramer's Cafe in Orient and have recently renovated a two-story commercial building that now houses Harry's Bar and Orient Lofts.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Becky and Brad for receiving this outstanding award and for working hard to make their community a better place to live and work. I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress and I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating them and in wishing them nothing but continued success.

ALYSSA MARTINEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Alyssa Martinez for receiving the 2017 Rising Star Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce.

Each year the Arvada Chamber recognizes Arvada's finest men and women for their involvement and dedication to the community.

Specifically, the Rising Star Award recognizes a high school student who exemplifies extraordinary skills in entrepreneurship, innovation, community impact and leadership.

A student at Arvada High School, Alyssa has proven to be a leader for the student body and exemplifies high moral conduct and provides a positive example for all students daily. Alyssa is the poster child for doing the right thing while also excelling in everything she puts her mind to.

Congratulations to Alyssa Martinez for this well-deserved award, and I thank her for her contribution to our community.

COMMEMORATING ISRAEL'S 70TH YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate Israel's Memorial Day, Yom Hazikaron, and Israel's Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut. Israel's transition from Memorial Day to Independence Day is a time to reflect about the sacrifices of the people of Israel for their country. And, as the country transitions from sadness to celebration, it is an opportunity to recognize and praise the achievements of Israel.

Starting with its very founding, Israel has overcome immense obstacles, including near constant attacks from its neighbors. And yet, over the last 70 years, Israel has grown tremendously. Its economy is one of the most dynamic in the world, drawing investors and innovators from around the globe. Its contributions to technology, medicine, and culture have greatly benefitted the international community. Israel has a longstanding history of aid work, most recently providing aid to Syria and responding to natural disasters in Haiti. And, of course, Israel continues to be a refuge for Jewish people fleeing anti-Semitism.

On this 70th anniversary of the modern state of Israel, I celebrate the values that the United States and Israel share: the ideals of freedom and pluralism. Israel is a nation that prides itself on promoting freedom and self-determination. It seeks peace with its neighbors, and the United States must continue to support Israel in its quest for peace.

As a strategic partner and friend, the United States stands in solidarity with Israel against its enemies. We will continue to look for ways to strengthen the partnership between our countries. I am proud to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut with our ally, Israel, and look forward to the nation's continued success.

RECOGNIZING GERARD PLACE AND ITS DEDICATED ADVOCATES DURING NATIOAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we recognize April as National Volunteer Month to call special and deserved recognition to Gerard Place and its dedicated advocates.

Gerard Place opened its doors and its heart to a community in need in 2000, under the auspices of twelve Congregations of Women Religious in my hometown of Buffalo, New York. These Women of Faith brought a closed city corner back to life for homeless single parents and children through counseling, education, employment, housing and life skills training.

With its core values ingrained in the organization's building blocks of compassion, reverence, integrity and collaboration, Gerard Place's programs have been highly successful as more than 90 percent have transitioned to independent housing.

Statistics are a required reporting tool of course, but Gerard Place's real impact is found in the faces and heard in the stories of second chances given and opportunities seized by women now living productive, purposeful lives. With individualized, intensive support, families are strengthened, careers are pursued and a better future is within reach.

Understanding the work is never complete, Gerard Place is expanding its offerings with the rehabilitation of the Community Center to bring classroom space, job readiness training and quality childcare to the neighborhood.

As is the case in so many of our mission driven non-profits, the leadership and staff of Gerard Place will be the first to share that so much of what has been achieved and so much that is left to do is only possible thanks to the tireless dedication of its amazing volunteers.

It is a belief I share as a true example of how lives are changed by those inspiring people among us who give their time, talent and treasure back to their communities. Without the more than 100 volunteers devoting more than 6,000 hours annually in a multitude of roles including engagement with program participants, staff support, event organization and board membership, the goals of Gerard Place would be unattainable.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to acknowledge and add my thanks to the outstanding volunteers of Gerard Place for everyday of every month they give hope and help to those they selflessly serve in our community.

HONORING JACOB AND JOAB BOWEN

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two of my Hall County neighbors, Jacob and Joab Bowen, who were honored by the community as ''Farmers of the Year'' at the Annual Agribusiness Awards Program.

Jacob and Joab's father, Paul Bowen, started a chicken farm in 1987. Following his example, the two brothers have worked on their family's farm since its inception.

Each year, the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce and the Hall County Cooperative Extension host the awards ceremony to highlight achievements in our community's agriculture industry. In the last decade, Jacob and Joab have succeeded in managing their farm's expansion, earning them an honor at this year's event.

What began as a small operation has grown into a large-scale farm that contains 16 chicken houses and several acres for cattle. Annually, the Bowen farm produces more than 22 million pounds of antibiotic-free chicken.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Bowen brothers for their diligence in a crucial yet often undervalued profession. Our communities depend on the food that Jacob, Joab, and many Northeast Georgia farmers produce, and I am grateful for their work.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RONALD A. SARASIN

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Honorable Ronald A Sarasin on the occasion of his retirement as President and CEO of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society. Since January 3, 2000, Ron has directed the Society as it has communicated the rich heritage of Congress and the U.S. Capitol to a wide, diverse audience. School children, scholars, historians, artists, people from all walks of life, and even Members of Congress have learned more about this great institution because of programs offered by the Society.

Under Ron's leadership, classroom programs, symposia and lectures, awards and outreach, and recognition of the history of Congressional committees has flourished. The Society has brought elementary and secondary students to the Capitol for tours and visits to our offices. It has sponsored symposia where scholars have shared their research and insights. It has taught about Constantino Brumidi and his beautiful artwork. At a recent Society event, guests were invited to climb the temporary stairs and walk on the scaffolding to view the restoration of the ceiling of the Brumidi Corridors at eye level.

During Ron's tenure, the Society has dedicated over $100,000 to fund fellowships for historians, political scientists, artists, and scholars of other disciplines. The Society even became a publisher, producing 12 books on Congress.

Ron has been a great ambassador for Congress. He has led countless numbers of students, visiting dignitaries, business executives, international guests, and Society members on tours of this great building. As a former Representative from Connecticut, Ron knows our institution well and has been generous in sharing his insights.

As Members of Congress, we too have been enriched by the Society. As guests to the annual presentation of the Freedom Award over the years we have met American icons such as filmmaker Ken Burns, historian David McCullough and writer, director and star of ''Hamilton,'' Lin-Manuel Miranda. We have been honored by Society dinners celebrating the history of the Congressional committees on which we serve. We have been feted at welcoming receptions for new Members of Congress and at thank you receptions for Members who retire.

Ron's outstanding leadership was recognized when the National Endowment for the

Humanities honored the U.S. Capitol Historical Society with its National Humanities Medal in 2004. Upon receiving the award from President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush, Ron noted, ''There is so much more to be told about our nation's history from inside this building (the Capitol) than simply the making of laws.'' Indeed there is, and Ron Sarasin has excelled in telling the story of the Capitol and Congress for the past 18 years.

I thank Ron, for his persistent advocacy of Congress and the Capitol. Congratulations on a job well done and best wishes as he turns his attention to other endeavors.

CONGRATULATING MALLORY MARGARET NESMITH

HON. ROD BLUM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a young leader, Ms. Mallory Margaret Nesmith, for being accepted to the United States Air Force Academy. Academically, she is outstanding by earning a high-weighted GPA of 4.122 while participating in challenging AP courses. She was selected as one of two ambassadors from a class of 82 students to be an AP Ambassador for the course Advanced Placement United States History, APUSH. Additional honors granted to Ms. Nesmith include English Student of the Year for two years, Student of the Quarter, Member of Mu Alpha Theta, and Junior Escort.

Aside from her academics, she is a long-term leader of the Lego Club Library for the past seven years. She partakes in drama and band where she performed and earned awards at the state and national level. With her involvement as Vice President in the Distributive Education Clubs of America, a high school leadership program, she received one district, two state, and one national award. These accomplishments are only a handful amongst her participation in additional extra curricular activities, academic clubs, and community organizations.

Growing up with a father in the Air Force, Ms. Nesmith understands the importance of comradeship amongst her fellow peers. Throughout her life, she has formed relationships with people that she now calls family. The ability to create lasting relationships with people of different backgrounds, and in new situations, displays a character worth having as a leader in the Air Force.

With the extensive accomplishments Ms. Nesmith has thus far, I have confidence in her ability to achieve her goal to become valedictorian at John F. Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids, and in coming years, complete pilot training. She is a determined, confident, and sharp leader who will serve her country proudly.

TRIBUTE TO ROY QUAKENBUSH

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Roy Quakenbush of Council Bluffs, Iowa for his 70 years of service as a barber in Council Bluffs and Omaha. Roy began his career on February 9, 1948.

Roy said, ''a lot has changed since I started barbering.'' He said he can remember when a haircut cost a dollar and kids' cuts cost fifty cents. At one time there were 65 barbers in Council Bluffs; today there are 10. Roy said, ''I'm a barber, not a stylist.'' At 88 years old, Roy still works two mornings a week cutting hair and has no plan to retire any time soon. Roy said barbering has provided him with a good living and his volunteer work cutting hair and shaving beards at Children's Square USA and at the Hospice of Southwest Iowa has been a hallmark of his career. ''Doing that helps those people feel good,'' Roy said.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Roy for his 70 years of dedicated and devoted service to his customers and friends of Council Bluffs and Omaha. Roy has made a difference by helping and serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in applauding his service and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE 110TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 110th birthday of the United States Army Reserve, which will be celebrated on April 23, 2018. What began in 1908 as a small corps of medical professionals held in readiness for duty is today the Army's global operational reserve force, and the most capable, combat-ready, and lethal Army Reserve the nation has ever known.

Established by Congress in 1908 with just 160 doctors and nurses, a larger Organized Reserve was created under the National Defense Act of 1916. A year later, when America entered World War I, more than 160,000 Reservists were mobilized to help the Army defeat Germany and the other Axis powers. By World War II, more than 200,000 Reservists had joined the fight, serving on every front.

Through two world wars, the Cold War, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, the Global War on Terror, and countless other crises, operations, and emergencies, America's Army Reserve has never failed to meet the challenges of its time. The Army Reserve continues to provide quick access to the mission-critical forces and capabilities the Army needs to initiate, sustain, and prevail in major operations.

Today our nation faces new threats from multiple sources that challenge U.S. military dominance across every domain. The Army Reserve is again rising to the challenge, creating a ready force of units and individual soldiers postured to move fast, engage quickly, and win decisively on the battlefields of today and tomorrow. I am proud of the Reservists of the 5th Congressional district of Washington state for serving with honor, distinction, and having the passion to protect our American freedoms.

The world is constantly changing and the threats evolving, but the Army Reserve continues to remain a dedicated component of the most decisive and lethal land force in the world.

Our thanks and appreciation to all of these patriotic Americans, and Happy 110th Birthday, U.S. Army Reserve.

MICHAEL MARTINEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Michael Martinez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Michael Martinez is a student at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Michael Martinez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Michael Martinez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 16, 2018 I missed the following votes due to weather delays and was not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 140, and YEA on Roll Call No. 141.

CELEBRATING CALVERT'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of the City of Calvert, Texas.

It is an honor to represent Calvert and its residents in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Calvert has supported thousands of families and businesses throughout the years, and I am proud to offer my congratulations on their sesquicentennial milestone.

Located in Robertson County, Calvert was established along the Houston and Texas Central Railway which was built through the area in 1868.

The town is named in honor of Robert Calvert, a farmer with large cotton and corn operations, who advocated for the railroad to come through Robertson County.

Settlers moved into the area to be closer to the rail which brought the promise of commerce and faster transportation of cotton from the farms along the Brazos River.

The town began to grow as businesses were established along Main Street, which ran parallel to the railroad; allowing them to take advantage of easy loading and unloading.

In the late 1800's and early 1900's Calvert was booming; it was a major cotton center, with a number of gins, cotton compresses and cottonseed oil mills. Unfortunately, floods, fires and a yellow fever epidemic, coupled with a drop in cotton prices reduced economic opportunities and the town's population.

While the city's population is smaller it has stood the test of time and the city has been resilient.

Today the city is reinventing itself as a historically charming destination, as much of its Victorian Era architecture is well preserved, telling the stories of Texas Pioneers. The current residents of Calvert are a hardy people, who are justifiably proud of the city's rich heritage.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating the City of Calvert and its proud residents for their one-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary.

In recognition of this occasion, I am pleased to fly a United States flag over the United States Capitol to honor Calvert's sesquicentennial anniversary.

As I close, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for our military men and women who protect us from external threats, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LATE FRED MARTIN'S LIFE OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Fred Martin for his life of distinguished public service. His efforts have forever changed Michigan and made it a more inclusive and prosperous state.

A lifelong Michigan resident, Mr. Martin was passionate about serving others. He was a member of the United States Army from 1944 to 1946, serving during World War II in Europe and the South Pacific. He was honorably discharged with a Bronze Battle Star and returned home to Michigan to attend college. Mr. Martin received his Bachelor Degree in Liberal Arts Education as well as his Master's Degree in Education in Administration in 1954. He then spent 27 years working for Detroit Public Schools in various positions including as a teacher, Assistant Principal, Executive Director of the Office of Personnel and Deputy Superintendent. From there, he went on to serve the City of Detroit as Mayor Coleman Young's Chief of Staff, a position that allowed him to work on policies that meaningfully impacted the city that he loved.

As an African American leader, Mr. Martin worked to establish the Society of Black Educational Administrators and served as the organization's first president. It was through his work there that he established tenets to eradicate racism from Detroit Public Schools and worked with state and local leaders to open lines of communication. Through his work as Mayor Young's Chief of Staff, Mr. Martin increased the number of minority and female firefighters in the City of Detroit, vastly lowered the average response time of 911 emergency calls and coordinated food and shelter for Detroit's homeless population during the cold winters. Mr. Fred Martin spent his whole life working to better the city of Detroit and succeeded in changing public discourse and processes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Fred Martin. By all accounts, he lived a deeply meaningful life and will be dearly missed.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY AND GENE HOSFELT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Shirley and Gene Hosfelt of Massena, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on February 10, 2018.

Shirley and Gene's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

ATLANTA STUDENTS WINNING PRIZE IN C–SPAN VIDEO DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION)

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today and congratulate Jessie Schulhof and Ava Stark, students from The Alfred and Adele Davis Academy Middle School in Atlanta, Georgia.

Every year, C–SPAN holds a documentary contest for middle and high school students called StudentCam. This year, students were asked to choose a provision of the U.S. Constitution and create a video illustrating why it's important to them. The documentary the students submitted was ''Speaking Up to The Limits,'' about the First Amendment.

Young people have the power to influence change in the world we live in today. We cannot let age, race, or gender keep people silent. I gave my first sermon at age 16. I became friends with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at age 18. The words and actions of Dr. King inspired me to become involved in the Civil Rights Movement.

Today, I am proud that these young constituents from The Alfred and Adele Davis Academy Middle School were honored for their great and good work in this competition, which saw more than 3,000 entries. I am pleased to congratulate them on this impressive recognition.

Every generation can leave behind a powerful legacy. You cannot be afraid to speak up. You cannot be afraid to speak out, especially for what you believe, even at a young age. Therefore, I stand with you and provide strength for you, as you are the future of this beloved country.

KYLE McCLELLAND

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kyle McClelland for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Kyle McClelland is a student at Sobesky Academy and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kyle McClelland is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Kyle McClelland for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 139; YEA on Roll Call No. 140; YEA on Roll Call No. 141; and YEA on Roll Call No. 142.

CONGRESS OF FUTURE MEDICAL LEADERS

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 2 high school students who were chosen by the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent the State of Colorado as Delegates at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders. These students are Jana Sherif and Meghan Wampler.

The Congress is an honors-only program for top students in our country who aspire to be physicians or medical scientists. These students are nominated by their teachers or the

Academy based on their leadership ability, academic achievement, and dedication. This program is designed to inspire young people to go into medical research fields or be physicians, and provides a path, plan, and mentoring resources to help them reach their goal. During the Congress, the students will have the chance to learn from leaders in the medical field as well as government officials, top medical school deans, leaders from the private sector, and even Nobel laureates.

These students' acceptance to this prestigious program is an incredible feat, and it is my honor to rise today and recognize the outstanding accomplishment of this future leader. Our nation greatly benefits from the achievements of physicians and medical scientists, and it is important that we continue to inspire younger generations to pursue careers in the medical field.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my congratulations to these students and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JACK E. BROWN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Jack E. Brown. He was honored by the Midwest Partnership with the Guy Powell Award at their annual banquet on January 25, 2018.

The Guy Powell Award was established in honor of the late Guy Powell, who served on the board and was an active volunteer in several community organizations. This award recognizes excellence in leadership and passion for economic development in the Midwest Partnership region. Jack was awarded this distinction for his selfless volunteering with many organizations and projects. He works with the Development Corporation of Greenfield, Greenfield Chamber/Main Street, Greenfield Lions Club and American Legion. Jack has been instrumental in helping to bring a number of business ventures to Greenfield.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate Jack for receiving this outstanding award and for working hard to make his community a better place to live and work. I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress and I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jack and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF EDWARD W. GOHRING

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Lieutenant Edward W. Gohring, USN Retired. Ed selflessly served the nation and Virginia's First District for 40 years through the United States Navy.

Ed began his career in service by enlisting in the United States Navy in 1976. He served aboard the USS *Francis Hammond*, in the STAR program for AEGIS, and was critical in the development of the Combat System Operational Sequencing System. Ed served as lead instructor for the SPY–1 and AEGIS Weapon System courses before returning to Dahlgren to serve as an instructor for AEGIS Training and Readiness Center.

After retiring from the Navy, Ed served as the Director of Special Projects and AEGIS Training and Readiness Center from 1998 to 2002. During this time, he focused on Ballistic Missile Defense and littoral air warfare capabilities. Ed was transferred to the Center for Surface Combat Systems and assumed the role of Functional Integration, responsible for training of personnel for effective employment of surface Navy combat capability at sea. He later assumed duties as the Executive Director responsible for 15 training sites and detachments both domestically and abroad.

In recognition of his contribution to Navy, Ed was awarded the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the highest honor awarded by the Secretary of the Navy to a civilian employee. Ed is survived by his wife, Doris; son, Michael; and numerous family and friends across the Navy. I am honored to have known Ed and serve as witness to the countless lives he touched through his selfless service and leadership.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF TIQUE LEE CAUL

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of a longtime Antioch resident, Mrs. Tique Lee Caul.

Tique majored in Business at Laney College. As a single mother, she would often take her children with her as she attended classes. She simultaneously worked a full-time job and was a Habitat for Humanity volunteer.

Tique was a trailblazer and proud Antioch resident for 25 years and was a trailblazer. She was a woman who wore many hats. A dedicated Real Estate Agent for the past 18 years, Tique sat on multiple boards, and was passionately involved with several professional organizations including the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, Black Women Organized for Political Action, and a past member of Kiwanis, and Toast Masters.

A stalwart in the community, Tique was a member of the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County, and a committed volunteer for several elected officials. One of her most passionate volunteer roles was that of Leadership Coordinator (Coach) for Aiming High, Inc., where she enjoyed supporting others in their personal transformation and goal attainment. As the daughter of a Navy veteran, she also volunteered for the Veterans' Hospital.

Tique was busy shining her light until the very end. She was a wonderful mother to her five daughters, (Ricklene, Bobbye, Roman, Miquel and Alexis) and son (Gerald Jr.), a brilliant wife (Gerald Sr.), a doting grandmother, loving aunt, sister, cousin and a faithful friend. She will be sincerely missed by everyone who knew her.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANNON FREE LIBRARY

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the centennial anniversary of the Cannon Free Library in Delhi, New York.

Libraries play an important role in our upstate communities, cultivating a love of learning and reading, and fostering a profound sense of fellowship among residents. For 100 years, the Cannon Free Library has enriched the lives and minds of the citizens of Delhi by encouraging imagination and serving as a place of gathering. Through its many program offerings, youth services, and wide selection of books, the library is a cornerstone of the community.

On behalf of the 19th Congressional District and the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation and congratulations to the Cannon Free Library. As the library celebrates its 100th birthday, I would like to commend the staff, the Cannon Family, and the residents of Delhi on this achievement and wish them continued success in its next 100 years.

GRIFFIN McCONNELL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Griffin McConnell for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Griffin McConnell is a student at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Griffin McConnell is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Griffin McConnell for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING MULBERRY RIVER SOCIETY

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible work done by the Mulberry River Society to restore the High Bank and Indian Creek access points on the nationally-designated Wild and Scenic Mulberry River. The river, which runs through the

Fourth Congressional District's northwest counties, is the result of collaborative efforts by the Mulberry River Society, U.S. Forest Service, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and the Arkansas Canoe Club.

The resulting restoration will allow the Mulberry River to continue as a recreation spot for residents and visitors alike for decades to come. I congratulate the Mulberry River Society on its restoration and look forward to marking the occasion in person on Friday, April 20, 2018 at its 50th Anniversary Celebration of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act on the banks of the Mulberry River.

TRIBUTE TO LOREN LONG

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Loren Long. Loren was recently awarded the Greenfield Lion of the Year Award.

As a member of the Lion's organization for many years, Loren has worked tirelessly behind the scenes. He has dedicated his time to ensuring the organizations success in his community, whether it was working cleanup after events or getting the word out about upcoming community events. Loren, along with his wife Mary, are also the owners of Long's Market in Greenfield.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Loren for receiving this outstanding award and I am proud to represent him in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Loren and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE IS 70 YEARS OLD

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week Israelis celebrate 70 years of independence and success against all odds. In Israel, independence day is celebrated the day after the entire country solemnly remembers its fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism.

The mingling of memorial and celebration in Israel is rooted in the country's history: from the very moment of its founding, Israel's enemies have tried time and again to wipe the Jewish state off the map.

Israel was established in 1948 as a refuge for the Jewish people, after generations of oppression in all corners of the earth. After over 2,000 years of exile, Holocaust survivors and persecuted Jews from Muslim lands miraculously returned to their ancient homeland to forge a new future together.

These refugees went on to make the desert blossom and establish a prosperous, industrious, and free nation. Today, Israel stands as a stalwart American ally and an outpost of freedom and democracy in a region plagued with tyranny and fear.

So today, we congratulate Israel for 70 years of defying the odds and tell the Israeli people: The United States will always stand by their side.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO ZELL MILLER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, given the recent passing of former Georgia Governor and United States Senator Zell Miller, I include in the RECORD reflections of my dear friend and mentor, former Congressman Jack T. Brinkley of Columbus, Georgia, entitled "The Influence of Peach Tarts." Zell Miller, Jack Brinkley, and Guy Sharpe, distinguished men of great service and accomplishment, were Phi Chi Champion Debaters at Young Harris College.

Their accomplishments bring to mind what the English poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once wrote: "The heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight, but they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night."

THE INFLUENCE OF PEACH TARTS

"The faintest flutter of a butterfly's wings may result in a hurricane one hundred years hence."—Unknown

Behind our rural home in Bettstown, Georgia, we had a small barn-like structure which we called the corn crib. It had a fine tin top which got blazing hot in the summer time. Daddy stored wagon loads of his corn crop in the crib, and that is where a huge, orange colored rat snake lived and thrived. It looked after the rats nicely and would always frighten us children when we played among the ears of corn.

We had a peach tree nearby, and mother used to gather peaches and slice them for drying on top of the corn crib. She would place cloth beneath them and above them, and the preservation process didn't take all that long.

After they dried out she kept them in a flour sack in our shed room, and we would often eat some of them out there. Mother was ahead of her time, considering the dried fruit industry of today.

Also, equally important in the process, she would make peach tarts, and they had a wonderful, tree ripened, robust taste. To eat one was to crave another one.

Our family had little to offer at a Franklin Baptist Church social at Betts' Mill pond one night, and mother decided to make a huge platter of peach tarts.

Mr. Frank Betts was the taciturn owner and operator of the grist mill there and a man of few words. That night he smacked his lips and asked, "Who was it that brought the peach tarts!" Miss Ollie, his utterly remarkable wife, answered him, "Pauline, did."

The Pauline of whom she spoke was my mother Pauline Spearman Brinkley, and with the peach tarts she set in motion an incredible and providential chain of events for me.

My daddy left home, and my mother kept the family together, riding the school bus with us and working at the lunchroom. The community was there for us as well, and Frank Betts came to our rescue by loaning us a Milk Cow and calf for our use during those hard times.

Mother showed me how to milk the cow, and it was as natural to me as breathing. On cold winter days I would rest my head on the warm flank of old Muley and milk with both hands with the pail between my knees. "If you done it," said Dizzy Dean, the famous baseball player, "It ain't braggin' "! I did become very good at milking

Upon graduation from high school the next year, my uncle Devon Brinkley, told me of a college where you could work a quarter and go to school a quarter. It was Young Harris College, where the outstanding Cathy Cox of Bainbridge would many years later become president, and the president at that time, Hon. Walter Downs, accepted my application to go.

Mother polished my shoes and off I went without money but with determination. When I got to Young Harris, I lived in the dormitory with the other students and ate with them in the wonderful dining hall.

And now, as Paul Harvey would say, for the rest of the story.—My work that first summer was at the college dairy, and providentially I knew how to milk a cow, how to do the work and how to do it well.

While at Young Harris I became of Phi Chi Champion Debater with Zell Miller and Guy Sharpe, and from there became a teacher, a USAF pilot during the Korean war, a lawyer, a United States Congressman and a trustee of the college. Like old Dizzy Dean said . . .

Today there is a Pauline Spearman Brinkley Memorial Highway just up the road from where mother made the peach tarts which our beloved Frank Betts liked so well. Was that possibly in the back of his mind when he loaned us old Muley? Actually, he and Miss Ollie did that as the Christian friends which they were, but the peach tarts surely set the stage in a young boy's mind.

Never underestimate the power and influence of peach tarts.

HONORING WAYS AND MEANS STAFF DIRECTOR DAVID STEWART

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a good friend, a trusted policy adviser and by every measure, one of the very best to ever serve the Ways and Means Committee and the House, Mr. David Stewart.

David began his Congressional journey in 2000 when he came to intern for Ways and Means Committee Member Congressman Phil English. Over his career as a staffer, David became a trusted voice on policy for Speaker John Boehner, Speaker PAUL RYAN, and two and a half years ago to me when he joined the Ways and Means Committee as staff director.

This past year, with David's steady leadership, and immutable resolve we were able to pass the first tax reform in a generation that's boosted our economy and helped so many families.

David's focus has always been on making lives better for all Americans, and I stand here today to tell him job well done. David is a selfless public servant, who has sacrificed time away from his family—his wife Betsy and his daughters Grace and Poppy and has served his nation well.

To say David works hard is an understatement. Once when he was asked how many hours he works per week, David replied simply with "a lot." This also shows David's witty and wry sense of humor that has always made busy days brighter.

His dedication to mastering intricate policy is unmatched. I know I speak for all Members and staff when I say: Thank you, David for your service to the House and to the Committee on Ways and Means. He is going to be greatly missed around here.

RECOGNIZING ELLIJAY'S RIVER STREET TAVERN

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the River Street Tavern in Ellijay, Georgia. After conducting a nationwide poll, the Brewer's Association and Forbes Magazine recognized this local favorite as one of the best craft beer restaurants in the country.

With Gilmer County roots that trace back multiple generations, Brad and Heather Simmons have always been active in their community. Brad worked as a sergeant in the Gilmer County Fire Department, and Heather managed Jilly's Pub, a role that inspired her to have a restaurant of her own.

Years later, Brad and Heather bought Jilly's Pub, which they turned into the River Street Tavern. Since 2014, the restaurant has proudly served up sips of North Georgia with its wide variety of locally brewed beer.

Committed to welcoming each person who passes through their doors, the staff at River Street Tavern has turned many Northeast Georgians into regular guests. Whether they're enjoying live music or trying to get a dollar to stick to the ceiling, people return to the restaurant for good fare and good company.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the River Street Tavern on its well-deserved achievement. I wish Brad, Heather, and the rest of the team well as their business continues to grow.

DAVE MURPHY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Dave Murphy for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Dave Murphy is a student at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Dave Murphy is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Dave Murphy for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING JOE ''JOE Q'' QUATTRONE

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the outstanding achievements of Joe Quattrone and his lifelong commitment to serving others.

Mr. Quattrone was born in Reggio di Calabria, a town on the southern ''toe'' of Italy. He grew up the child of farmers, seeing the tyranny of Benito Mussolini firsthand. Just before the outbreak of World War II, Joe's eldest brother came to America, whom Joe would follow fifteen years later, settling in Steubenville, Ohio.

Upon arrival, Joe began work in his brother's restaurant. Shortly thereafter, he became a naturalized citizen, and served in the United States Air Force for one year, before returning to the family business. In 1960, Mr. Quattrone made a visit to Washington, D.C. He fell in love with the area, and moved here with his wife Rita. He continued working in the food industry, this time for a friend, while picking up extra work in construction. After five years on the job, he suffered a fall resulting in an inability to continue physical labor. Still needing work, a friend suggested barber school, and the rest is history.

After a brief time in a private shop, Mr. Quattrone landed a job in the Pentagon. He worked there for a couple of years before moving to Andrews Air Force Base. While on base, there came an opening in the barber shop in the House of Representatives. With the help of his Congressman from Ohio, the late Wayne Hays, Mr. Quattrone was hired and began his service to the men and women of the Capitol on March 2, 1970, and has remained ever since.

In the 48 years Mr. Quattrone has served his country, longer than any current member of Congress, he has met and chatted with an entire generation of lawmakers. Frequent clients over the years included President H. W. Bush, Vice President Gore, House Speaker Tip O'Neil, and Senator Ted Kennedy. He was especially close to then House Minority Leader, turned Vice President and President, Mr. Gerald Ford, cutting his hair just days before his assent to his final office, about which Joe would later remark, ''He had no idea it was coming.'' They remained lifelong friends, an admiration that was surely mutual.

When Mr. Quattrone began his work, there were sixteen barbers employed in House office buildings. Today, he is one of only three left, all of whom are now located in the Rayburn Building. But given his status as an ''institution'' in Congress, his clients aren't ready to let him go just yet. Mr. Quattrone will tell you that the most important, and his favorite, part of the job has always stayed the same: he still gets to meet and talk with people every day. For many of us here, including myself, Joe Q. is family.

His dedication to the people of New Jersey and our Capitol has impacted the lives of many, and serves as a role model for generations of public servants.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of dedicated men and women like Mr. Quattrone.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, family, friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the work of Joe Quattrone and his dedication to keeping Washington looking sharp.

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN AND DONALD LITTLE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Marilyn and Donald Little of Winterset, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary.

Marilyn and Donald's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 65th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65 years together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 2018 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 24

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD–G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the state of rural America.
SR–328A

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Navy and Marine Corps.
SD–192

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2019 for the Forest Service.
SD–366

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Harry B. Harris, Jr., of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Commonwealth of Australia, Jonathan R. Cohen, of California, to be the Deputy Representative to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the Deputy Representative in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to be Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Deputy Representative to the United Nations, and Jackie Wolcott, of Virginia, to be Representative to the Vienna Office of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the rank of Ambassador, all of the Department of State.
SD–419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider S. 2680, to address the opioid crisis, S. 2315, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the regulatory framework with respect to certain nonprescription drugs that are marketed without an approved new drug application, S. 2597, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs, S. 382, to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a voluntary registry to collect data on cancer incidence among firefighters, and the nominations of Sharon Fast Gustafson, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term of four years, Jon Parrish Peede, of Mississippi, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Humanities for a term of four years, and any pending nominations.
SD–430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine mitigating America's cybersecurity risk.
SD–342

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the plight of international parental child abduction and its effect on American families.
SD–226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Food and Drug Administration.
SD–124

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the United States Agency for International Development.
SD–192

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security
To hold hearings to examine maritime transportation, focusing on opportunities and challenges.
SR–253

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine early impressions of the new tax law.
SD–215

APRIL 25

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider S. 2369, to authorize aboriginal subsistence whaling pursuant to the regulations of the International Whaling Commission, S. 2511, to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to carry out a program on coordinating the assessment and acquisition by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of unmanned maritime systems, to make available to the public data collected by the Administration using such systems, an original bill entitled, ''MARAD Reauthorization'', and the nominations of Vice Admiral Karl L. Schultz, to be Admiral and to be Commandant, and Vice Admiral Charles W. Ray, to be Vice Commandant, both of the Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, Patrick Fuchs, of Wisconsin, and Michelle A. Schultz, of Pennsylvania, both to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, Rebecca Kelly Slaughter, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, Rubydee Calvert, of Wyoming, and Laura Gore Ross, of New York, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and Alan E. Cobb, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.
SD–106

2 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
SD–430

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Department of Justice.
SD–192

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard
To hold hearings to examine enhancing the Marine Mammal Protection Act.
SR–253

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine H.R. 597, to take lands in Sonoma County, California, into trust as part of the reservation of the Lytton Rancheria of California, and H.R. 1491, to reaffirm the action of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians.
SD–628

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Andrew S. Oldham, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Alan D. Albright, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas, Thomas S. Kleeh, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of West Virginia, Peter J. Phipps, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and Michael J. Truncale, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.
SD–226

Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Ronny Lynn Jackson, of Texas, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
SD–G50

3 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Christopher Krebs, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs, Department of Homeland Security.
SD–342

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration
Business meeting to markup S. Res. 355, improving procedures for the consideration of nominations in the Senate.
SR–301

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine preparing small businesses for cybersecurity success.
SR–428A

APRIL 26

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense budget posture in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SH–216

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2227–S2288

Measures Introduced: Eighteen bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2692–2709, S. Res. 473–476, and S. Con. Res. 36–37.

Pages S2261–62

Measures Reported:

S. 2113, to amend title 41, United States Code, to improve the manner in which Federal contracts for design and construction services are awarded, to prohibit the use of reverse auctions for design and construction services procurements. (S. Rept. No. 115–231)

S. 2413, to provide for the appropriate use of bridge contracts in Federal procurement, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 115–232) **Page S2261**

Measures Passed:

Indirect Auto Lending and Compliance with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act: By 51 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 76), Senate passed S. J. Res. 57, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to ''Indirect Auto Lending and Compliance with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act''. **Pages S2227–40**

International Women's Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 426, supporting the goals of International Women's Day. **Pages S2280–83**

Authorizing Senators to bring young children onto the Senate floor: Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 463, authorizing a Senator to bring a young son or daughter of the Senator onto the floor of the Senate during votes, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S2283**

Death of former Senator John Melcher: Senate agreed to S. Res. 474, relative to the death of the Honorable John Melcher, Senator from the State of Montana. **Page S2283**

North American Aerospace Defense Command 60th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 475, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the North American Aerospace Defense Command. **Page S2283**

National 9–1–1 Education Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 476, designating April 2018 as ''National 9–1–1 Education Month''. **Page S2283**

House Messages:

Amending the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act: By 56 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 77), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to S. 140, to amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund, with McConnell Amendment No. 2232 (to the amendment of the House to the bill). **Pages S2240–41**

Senator McConnell entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with McConnell Amendment No. 2232 (to the amendment of the House to the bill).

Page S2241

Bridenstine Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of James Bridenstine, of Oklahoma, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. **Page S2241**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 78), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2241**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, April 19, 2018; and that all post-cloture time on the nomination expire at 1:45 p.m., and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination, with no intervening action or debate. **Page S2283**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 55 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 79), Carlos G. Muniz, of Florida, to be General Counsel, Department of Education. **Pages S2241–48**

Messages from the House: **Page S2260**

Measures Referred: **Page S2260**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2260–61**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2261**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2262–63**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2263–66**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2259–60**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S2279–80**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2280**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—79) **Pages S2239–40, S2240–41, S2241, S2248**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Senator John Melcher, in accordance with S. Res. 474, at 7:35 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 19, 2018. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2283.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation within the Department of the Interior, after receiving testimony from R.D. James, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), and Lieutenant General Todd Semonite, Commanding General and Chief of Engineers, Army Corps of Engineers, both of the Department of Defense; and Brenda Burman, Commissioner for the Bureau of Reclamation, and Timothy R. Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, both of the Department of the Interior.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2019 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, after receiving testimony from Ben Carson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

ACCELERATING NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities concluded a hearing to examine accelerating new technologies to meet emerging threats, after receiving testimony from Michael D. Griffin, Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Airland concluded a hearing to examine Air Force modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General Arnold W. Bunch, Jr., USAF, Military Deputy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, and Lieutenant General Jerry D. Harris, Jr., USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements, and Brigadier General Brian S. Robinson, USAF, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, both of the Headquarters United States Air Force, all of the Department of Defense.

ROBOCALLS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine abusive robocalls and how to stop them, after receiving testimony from Rosemary Harold, Chief, Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communications Commission; Lois Greisman, Associate Director, Marketing Practices Division, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission; Kevin Rupy, USTelecom, and Scott Delacourt, Wiley Rein LLP, on behalf of the U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform, both of Washington, D.C.; Margot Freeman Saunders, National Consumer Law Center, Boston, Massachusetts; and Adrian Abramovich, Miami, Florida.

OLYMPIC ABUSE

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security concluded a hearing to examine Olympic abuse, focusing on the role of national governing bodies in protecting our athletes, after receiving testimony from Bridie Farrell, NY Loves Kids, Inc., Brooklyn, New York; Jordyn Wieber, Los Angeles, California; Jamie Dantzscher, Canyon County, California; and Craig Maurizi, Fair Lawn, New Jersey.

PROTECTING GROUNDWATER

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the appropriate role of states and the Federal government in protecting groundwater, after receiving testimony from Martha Clark Mettler, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Indianapolis, on behalf of the Association of Clean Water Administrators; Amanda Waters, National Association of Clean Water Agencies, Washington, D.C.; Frank Holleman, Southern Environmental Law Center, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Anthony Brown, aquilogic, Inc., Costa Mesa, California; and Joe Guild, Reno, Nevada, on behalf of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the Public Lands Council.

MARRAKESH TREATY

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled, done at Marrakesh on June 27, 2013 (Marrakesh Treaty) (Treaty Doc.114–06), after receiving testimony from Manisha Singh, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs; Scott C. Labarre, National Federation of the Blind, Baltimore, Maryland; and Allan Robert Adler, Association of American Publishers, and Jonathan Band, Library Copyright Alliance, both of Washington, D.C.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of David Williams, of Illinois, Robert M. Duncan, of Kentucky, who was introduced by Senators McConnell and Paul, and Calvin R. Tucker, of Pennsylvania, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the 30th anniversary of tribal self-governance, focusing on successes in self-governance and an outlook for the next 30 years, after receiving testimony from Melanie Benjamin, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Onamia, Minnesota; James R. Floyd, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma; Carlos Hisa, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, El Paso, Texas; and Arthur Blazer, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Mescalero, New Mexico.

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Patent and Trademark Office, including S. 2559, to amend title 17, United States Code, to implement the Marrakesh Treaty, S. 1390, to strengthen the position of the United States as the world's leading innovator by amending title 35, United States Code, to protect the property rights of the inventors that grow the country's economy, and S. 2601, to amend the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to extend the period during which the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office may set or adjust certain fees, after receiving testimony from Andrei Iancu, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director, Patent and Trademark Office.

IMMIGRATION COURT SYSTEM

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration concluded a hearing to examine strengthening and reforming America's immigration court system, after receiving testimony from Rebecca Gambler, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office; James R. McHenry III, Director, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice; Hilarie Bass, American Bar Association, and Andrew R. Arthur, Center for Immigration Studies, both of Washington, D.C.; and A. Ashley Tabaddor, National Association of Immigration Judges, Los Angeles, California.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Paul R. Lawrence, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Joseph L. Falvey, Jr., of Michigan, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

EXPLOITATION OF OLDER AMERICANS

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine exploitation of older Americans by guardians and others they trust, after receiving testimony from David Slayton, Texas Judicial Council, Austin; Katherine A. Johnson, Westmoreland County Area Agency on Aging, Greensburg, Pennsylvania; Nina A. Kohn, Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse, New York; and Pamela B. Teaster, Virginia Tech Center for Gerontology, Blacksburg.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 32 public bills, H.R. 5545–5576; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 834–835 were introduced. **Pages H3440–42**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3443–45**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 4744, to impose additional sanctions with respect to serious human rights abuses of the Government of Iran, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 115–642, Part 1); and

H.R. 3144, to provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–643, Part 1). **Page H3440**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Weber (TX) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3399**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:36 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H3402**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:59 p.m. and reconvened at 5:30 p.m. **Page H3428**

21st Century Internal Revenue Service Act: The House passed H.R. 5445, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve cybersecurity and taxpayer identity protection, and modernize the information technology of the Internal Revenue Service, by a yea-and-nay vote of 414 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 145. **Pages H3422–28, H3428–29**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. **Page H3422**

H. Res. 831, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 5444) and (H.R. 5445) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 239 ayes to 177 noes, Roll No. 144, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 226 yeas to 189 nays, Roll No. 143. **Pages H3405–11**

Taxpayer First Act: The House passed H.R. 5444, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, by a yea-and-nay vote of 414 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 146. **Pages H3411–22, H3429**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. **Page H3411**

H. Res. 831, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 5444) and (H.R. 5445) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 239 ayes to 177 noes, Roll No. 144, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 226 yeas to 189 nays, Roll No. 143. **Pages H3405–11**

Pursuant to section 3(a) of H. Res. 831, in the engrossment of H.R. 5444 the Clerk shall: (1) await the disposition of H.R. 2901, H.R. 5437, H.R. 5438, H.R. 5439, H.R. 5440, H.R. 5443, H.R. 5445, and H.R. 5446; (2) add the respective texts of all bills specified in paragraph (1), as passed by the House, as new matter at the end of H.R. 5444; (3) conform the title of H.R. 5444 to reflect the addition to the engrossment of the text of all the bills specified in paragraph (1) that have passed the House; (4) assign appropriate designations to provisions within the engrossment; and (5) conform cross-references and provisions for short titles within the engrossment. (b) Upon the addition to the engrossment of H.R. 5444 of the text of the bills as specified in subsection (a)(1) that have passed the House, such bills shall be laid on the table.

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Tuesday, April 17th.

Justice for Victims of IRS Scams and Identity Theft Act: H.R. 2905, H.R. 2905, amended, to require the Attorney General to establish procedures for expedited review of the case of any person who unlawfully solicits personal information for purposes of committing identity theft, while purporting to be acting on behalf of the IRS, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 403 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 147; **Pages H3429–30**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To require the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury to report to Congress on efforts to combat identity theft, including by persons purporting to be acting on behalf of the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.". **Page H3430**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, April 19th and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 3 p.m. on Monday, April 23rd. **Page H3430**

Senate Referrals: S. 1281 was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security. S.J. Res. 57 was held at the desk. **Page H3438**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on pages H3411 and H3428.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3410, H3410–11, H3428–29, H3429, and H3429–30. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 2, the ''Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018''. H.R. 2 was ordered reported, as amended.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing entitled ''Member Day''. Testimony was heard from Representative Thompson of Pennsylvania.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing entitled ''Member Day''. Testimony was heard from Representatives Lance, Griffith and Gonzalez-Colon of Puerto Rico.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing entitled ''Member Day''. Testimony was heard from Representatives Correa, Espaillat, Graves of Louisiana, Jayapal, Kihuen, Kildee, Suozzi, and Visclosky.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BIODEFENSE ACTIVITIES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing entitled ''Health and Human Services Biodefense Activities''. Testimony was heard from Robert Kadlec, M.D., Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services; Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., Director, National Institute of Allergy and Diseases, National Institutes of Health; and Stephen Redd, M.D., Director, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services.

APPROPRIATIONS—OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a budget hearing on the Office of Management and Budget. Testimony was heard from Mick Mulvaney, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

APPROPRIATIONS—CENSUS BUREAU

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Census Bureau. Testimony was heard from Ron Jarmin, Acting Director, U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce; Robert Goldenkoff, Director of Strategic Issues, Government Accountability Office; and David Powner, Director of Information Technology, Government Accountability Office.

APPROPRIATIONS—OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Agriculture officials: Sonny Perdue, Secretary; Seth Meyer, Chairman, World Agricultural Outlook Board, Office of the Chief Economist; and Diem-Linh Jones, Acting Budget Officer.

APPROPRIATIONS—JUDICIARY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a budget hearing on the Judiciary. Testimony was heard from John W. Lungstrum, Chair, Committee on the Budget of the Judicial Conference of the United States; and James C. Duff, Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

APPROPRIATIONS—OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on the Office of Compliance. Testimony was heard from Susan Grundmann, Executive Director, Office of Compliance.

APPROPRIATIONS—CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on the Congressional Budget Office. Testimony was heard from Keith Hall, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

OVERSIGHT AND REFORM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE '4TH ESTATE'

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Oversight and Reform of the Department of Defense '4th Estate' ". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FISCAL YEAR 2019 ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled "Fiscal Year 2019 Energy, Installations and Environment Budget Request". Testimony was heard from Phyllis L. Bayer, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment, Department of the Navy; Jordan Gillis, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, Department of the Army; John W. Henderson, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Energy, Department of the Air Force; and Lucian Niemeyer, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment, Department of Defense.

GROUND FORCE MODERNIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing entitled "Ground Force Modernization Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2019". Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General John M. Murray, Deputy Chief of Staff, G–8, Office of the U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff; Lieutenant General Paul A. Ostrowski, Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology); Brigadier General Joe Shrader, Commanding General, Marine Corps Systems Command; and Lieutenant General Robert S. Walsh, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, and Deputy Commandant, Combat Development and Integration, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy held a markup on H.R. 4606, the "Ensuring Small Scale LNG Certainty and Access Act"; H.R. 5174, the "Energy Emergency Leadership Act"; H.R. 5175, the "Pipeline and LNG Facility Cybersecurity Preparedness Act"; H.R. 5239, the "Cyber Sense Act"; and H.R. 5240, the "Enhancing Grid Security through Public-Private Partnerships Act". H.R. 5174, H.R. 5240, and H.R. 4606 were forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment. H.R. 5175 and H.R. 5239 were forwarded to the full Committee, as amended.

U.S. POLICY TOWARD A TURBULENT MIDDLE EAST

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "U.S. Policy Toward a Turbulent Middle East". Testimony was heard from David M. Satterfield, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, Department of State; and A. Wess Mitchell, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Department of State.

THE DAYTON LEGACY AND THE FUTURE OF BOSNIA AND THE WESTERN BALKANS

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats held a hearing entitled "The Dayton Legacy and the Future of Bosnia and the Western Balkans". Testimony was heard from Matthew Palmer, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Department of State; and public witnesses.

LIBYA FRACTURED: THE STRUGGLE FOR UNITY

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa held a hearing entitled "Libya Fractured: The Struggle for Unity". Testimony was heard from Christopher Blanchard, Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

FROM BOSTON TO AUSTIN: LESSONS LEARNED ON HOMELAND THREAT INFORMATION SHARING

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "From Boston to Austin: Lessons Learned on Homeland Threat Information Sharing". Testimony was heard from Brian Manley, Chief, Austin Police Department, Texas; William B. Evans, Commissioner, Boston Police Department, Massachusetts; and a public witness.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 788, the "Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act"; H.R. 1026, the "North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act"; H.R. 1037, to authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; H.R. 2991, the "Susquehanna National Heritage Area Act"; H.R. 3400, the "Recreation Not Red-Tape Act"; H.R. 4069, to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to clarify the treatment of

authentic Alaska Native articles of handicraft containing nonedible migratory bird parts, and for other purposes; and H.R. 4645, the "East Rosebud Wild and Scenic Rivers Act". H.R. 1026, H.R. 1037, H.R. 2991, and H.R. 3400 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 788, H.R. 4069, and H.R. 4645 were ordered reported, without amendment.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on H.R. 3846, the "Power Counties Act". Testimony was heard from Representative Johnson of Ohio; Mark Christensen, Commissioner, Campbell County, Gillette, Wyoming; Jeffrey Greenley, Superintendent, Switzerland of Ohio Local School District, Columbus, Ohio; and public witnesses.

TOP MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED GOVERNMENT-WIDE BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL COMMUNITY

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Top Management and Performance Challenges Identified Government-wide by the Inspector General Community". Testimony was heard from Michael E. Horowitz, Chair, Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, Inspector General, Department of Justice; Allison Lerner, Vice Chair, Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency Inspector General, National Science Foundation; and Glenn Fine, Principal Deputy Inspector General, Department of Defense.

GAME CHANGERS: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PART III, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Information Technology held a hearing entitled "Game Changers: Artificial Intelligence Part III, Artificial Intelligence and Public Policy". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

COMPOSITE MATERIALS—STRENGTHENING INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a hearing entitled "Composite Materials—Strengthening Infrastructure Development". Testimony was heard from Joannie Chin, Deputy Director, Engineering Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology; and public witnesses.

AN EXAMINATION OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION'S 7(A) LOANS TO POULTRY FARMERS

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "An Examination of the Small Business Administration's 7(a) Loans to Poultry Farmers". Testimony was heard from Hannibal Ware, Acting Inspector General, Small Business Administration; and William M. Manger, Associate Administrator, Office of Capital Access, Small Business Administration.

Joint Meetings

MULTIEMPLOYER PENSION SYSTEM

Joint Select Committee on Solvency of Multiemployer Pension Plans: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the history and structure of the multiemployer pension system, after receiving testimony from Thomas A. Barthold, Chief of Staff, Joint Committee on Taxation; and Ted Goldman, American Academy of Actuaries, Washington, D.C.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold closed hearings to examine an intelligence program update and global threat assessment, 10 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2019 and the Future Years Defense Program, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the semiannual testimony on the Federal Reserve's supervision and regulation of the financial system, 9:30 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold an oversight hearing to examine energy-related challenges and opportunities in remote and rural areas of the United States, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine tackling opioid and substance use disorders in Medicare, Medicaid, and human services programs, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 994, to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for the protection of community centers with religious affiliation, S. 2644, to ensure independent investigations and judicial review of the removal of a special counsel, and the nominations of John B. Nalbandian, of Kentucky, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Kari A. Dooley, to be United States District

Judge for the District of Connecticut, Dominic W. Lanza, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, Michael Y. Scudder, of Illinois, and Amy J. St. Eve, of Illinois, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Charles J. Williams, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Iowa, and Joseph H. Hunt, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Steven L. Gladden, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of North Carolina, Nicola T. Hanna, to be United States Attorney for the Central District of California, Brendan O. Heffner, to be United States Marshal for the Central District of Illinois, and Theodor G. Short, to be United States Marshal for the District of Maine, all of the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing regarding certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled ''Army Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request Readiness Posture'', 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled ''Examining Tax-Exempt Private Activity Bonds for All Aboard Florida's Brightline Passenger Rail System'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

10 a.m., Thursday, April 19

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of James Bridenstine, of Oklahoma, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

9 a.m., Thursday, April 19

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga, E504
Blum, Rod, Iowa, E494, E501
Bonamici, Suzanne, Ore., E493
Brady, Kevin, Tex., E504
Buck, Ken, Colo., E496, E502
Cole, Tom, Okla., E500
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